Angara to name brains in 'smear job'

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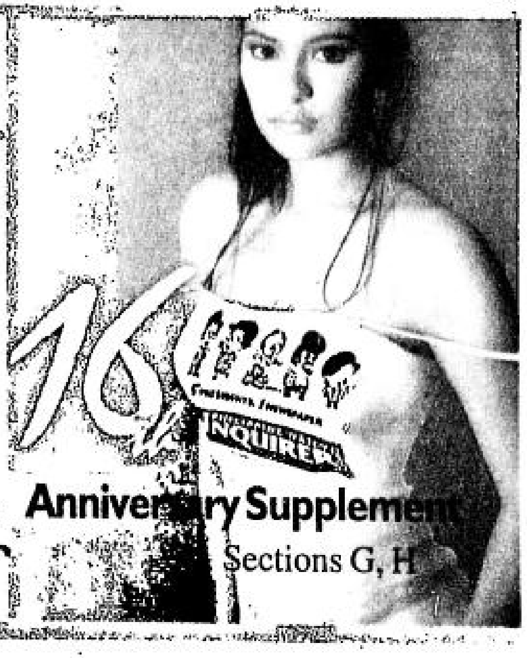


Anniversary Supplement
Sections G, H

Peace with NDF soon

Ex-nun is Gloria's nemesis

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

WHO is this woman whom President Macapagal-Arroyo, in her *colegiala* patois, recently cautioned the media from "making *patol*" or paying attention to?

Ma. Linda Olaguer-Montayre, 52, is an ex-nun and mother of three who is into construction services. As secretary general of the Philippine Consultative Assembly (PCA), she has emerged as one of the administration's most vocal critics outside the Left and the camp of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Her fellow street protesters best remember her as among the founders of the Bicol chapter of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) during the Marcos years.

After Edsa 1986, she was identified with the Pirma group that sought amendments to the 1987 Constitution supposedly to allow then President Fidel Ramos to seek a second term.

One of Montayre's serious accusations is that the President and her husband Jose Miguel Arroyo sought a P20-billion commission from the now doomed coconut levy compromise agreement between farmers' groups and businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

She said the money was to go to Ms. Macapagal's "war chest" for the 2004 presidential election.

Lately, Montayre had also tried to link the First Gentleman to rice smuggling.

Yet when pressed for proof, she would always claim to have "witnesses from inside Malacañang" just waiting to come forward at the right time.

Montayre, who sees government corruption "getting worse and merely sporting a new head" with Estrada out of power, also warned the President that she had "until 2002" to initiate genuine reforms.

For this display of nerve, Montayre got a whipping in the opinion pages of certain newspapers, particularly, and not surprisingly, from Dante Ang, chair of The Manila Times and the President's private publicist.

"Hearing Montayre pontificate on morals makes me feel sick," Ang wrote.

Ang, who had brokered the aborted coconut levy deal, also tried to unmask Montaryre, so to speak, by dredging up the extortion case filed against her by her own half-brother Ed Olaguer.

The case involves the sale in 1999 of Olaguer's office property to the government cor-

EX-NUN/ A17

GLORY BE

EDWIN BACASMAS

No matter the woes of the past week, the President appears upbeat during her radio and TV program, "May Gloria ang Bukas Mo," broadcast live on Saturday at the Our Lady of Peace School in Antipolo City.

Joe de V says final accord being rushed

BY JULIET LABOG-JAVELLANA

SPEAKER Jose de Venecia has endorsed to President Macapagal-Arroyo the proposal of the National Democratic Front for a one-month Christmas ceasefire and a prisoner swap that would put a derailed peace talks back on track and lead to a final peace agreement by early next year.

Noting that the NPA, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, and the NDF have a political and military alliance with the MILF, "this development would have a domino, calming psychological effect on the nation," De Venecia said.

In a press conference yesterday, De Venecia said the government and the communist-led NDF have agreed to accelerate the peace talks and sign a final peace agreement in "three to five months."

The Speaker said the agreement resulted from a round of "back-channel talks" that he conducted last weekend with communist leaders Jose Ma. Sison, Luis Jalandoni and Fidel Agcaoili in Utrecht, the Netherlands, and with Norwegian Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik in Oslo.

"The President, and she is supported by the military, is pushing for a final peace settlement. I believe we are now on the verge of resolving this (communist insurgency) conflict," De Venecia said.

De Venecia added that he would ask the President to approve the NDF proposal for a 30-day ceasefire with the communist rebels from Dec. 15 to Jan. 15 next year. He said this could also pave the way for the release of four New Peoples Army captives—Sgt. Jeremias Rosete Jr. and his three companions—by January or February next year.

In exchange, the NDF would be seeking the release of several political prisoners, including the convicted killer of US Army Col. James Rowe. However, the United States had strongly objected to his release.

De Venecia said the President and the Norwegian premier, who is hosting the peace talks, had endorsed the accelerated timetable that would dramatically cut the targeted schedule for a settlement from two years to five months.

The final peace agreement would include the permanent cessation of hostilities and "demobilization" of rebel forces, De Venecia said.

PEACE/ A17

SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN

Who cares about youth elections?

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA

(First of three parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

THEY'RE over-aged.

A majority of the sitting *Sangguniang Kabataan* (SK) members in the country's 14,943 barangays nationwide are older than the 15-21 age bracket for membership in the *Katipunan ng Kabataan* or the youth assembly in the barangays.

First elected in 1992, their terms were extended during the tenure of President Fidel Ramos. And in 1999, the SK election was postponed to 2002.

Now, it looks like another postponement is in the air. There are moves in the House of Representatives to postpone the SK elections next year to 2004 ostensibly due to the financial crisis.

President Macapagal has endorsed the postponement of the barangay election from May 2002 and hold it simultaneously with the presidential election in 2004. SK elections are held two months after the barangay polls.

The national government appears to have an indifferent attitude to an issue now dividing the youth.

WHO/ A18

WWF fighting a different kind of terrorism

BY ALYA B. HONASAN

EVEN as nations today are closing ranks against the universal threat of terrorism, environmental organizations such as the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) have been fighting for many years on a different front with its allies.

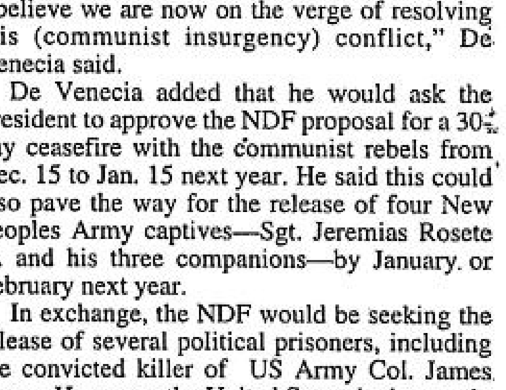
The enemies of the 40-year-old organization are pollution, the carbon emissions that are leading to deadly worldwide climate change, overfishing and deforestation, and other threats to the earth's natural balance.

"We can't save the world by ourselves," said Dr. Claude Martin, WWF-International director general, by way of stressing the importance of networking and cooperation.

WWF/ A18

EVEN the urban jungle that is Cubao, Quezon City, is all dressed up for the holidays with the Araneta Coliseum as its crowning glory.

JOAN BONDOC



Glum cops try to be merry

BY DONA PAZZIBUGAN AND TJ BURGONIO

THE MOOD of the Philippine National Police may not exactly be merry. But they're putting up a brave front. The PNP headquarters, Camp Crame in Quezon City, is glowing with the lights of the season.

And new police recruits are making like Santa Clauses. Which should make their job easier.

While on patrol duty, part of the recruits' task is to round up street children. Wearing Santa's caps, the cops won't frighten the street children.

President Macapagal-Arroyo for one, thinks that street children will be happy

GLUM/ A18

KUNG SINO MAN KAYO, ITIGIL NYO NA YAN!!!

Angara to name names behind opposition smear job

By Cynthia Balana and Dona Pazzibugan

OPPOSITION Sen. Edgardo Angara vowed to unmask the brains behind what he said were attempts to link the opposition to businessman Pacifico Marcelo and a supposed destabilization plot against the government.

"There is somebody behind all these crude demolition efforts," Angara said. "We will unravel the brains behind this cheap attempt."

In his testimony, Jonathan Ojano, vice president for government of International Consultancy Group Inc., another Marcelo company, belied Marcelo's allegations against President Macapagal-Arroyo. He alleged that Marcelo received P80 million from Angara to make his allegations against the administration.

Ojano said the P80 million was part of the P200-million "destabilization fund" of the opposition.

Naming names was also what presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao had in mind yesterday. But in Tiglao's view, it was Marcelo who should tell the public "who prodded and most probably paid him to slander the President."

'Mudslinger'

Tiglao called Marcelo a "mudslinger-for-hire who was trying to use the Senate blue ribbon committee to spread his falsehoods."

He said Marcelo was working for unidentified "backers" who had prompted him to accuse President Macapagal of seeking an illegal payoff so it would bring down her administration and allow a new government to take power.

"Mr. Marcelo is one of the worst types of liars because his falsehoods have slandered the President of the Republic and might even have been part of a plot to destabilize our democracy," Tiglao said in a statement.

He said Marcelo should "apologize to the Senate for his lies."

Marcelo had testified before the blue ribbon committee on Friday that Ms Macapagal had demanded majority control of his Philippine Communications Clearinghouse Inc. (PCCI) in exchange for a lucrative telecommunications franchise for the firm.

Some members of the committee, specifically those belonging to the president's political coalition, were skeptical of Marcelo's account, questioning his credibility and presenting documents and witnesses, including Marcelo's former business partners, and rejecting his allegations.

But Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel said the President herself must be asked to testify before the committee to refute Marcelo's charge.

"As things now stand, Marcelo's testimony on that point stands unrefuted," Pimentel said after the eight-hour committee hearing. "It is thus important to hear from (the President) personally what her version (of the matter) is," he said.

Undisputed

Angara agreed that Marcelo's account of his private meeting with the President on Aug. 16 remained undisputed.

Marcelo had testified that it was during this meeting that Ms Macapagal demanded the payoff. But upon grilling by senators, he conceded that the President never asked him outright for majority control.

Marcelo had also said the private meeting occurred in Malacañang on Aug. 18. But he changed the date to Aug. 16 after opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson told him that the President's dinner with the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1971, which was the reason why Ms Macapagal had ended their private meeting, took place on Aug. 16.

Tiglao had earlier said that Marcelo distorted what was said during his meeting with the President.

Marcelo, in a press statement, said he testified before the Senate in the hope that people would realize that he had "absolutely nothing to gain by coming out in the open—indeed I have already lost so much."

"My intention is pure and simple: to tell the truth," he said.

"My companies and I have suffered immeasurably because of glaring defects not only in the country's telecommunications policy but more so with the insatiable greed and unnerving hypocrisy of many of our top government officials," he said.

Summons

Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta said the blue ribbon committee should summon the three Palace officials who were in charge when Ms Macapagal and Marcelo held their private meeting. The officials are: Maimai Jimenez, the president's appointment secretary at that time, the chief of the Presidential Security Group, and a certain Sgt. Alviz who, Marcelo had said, escorted him inside the Palace.

Oreta was struck by what she said were "extraordinary measures" taken by Palace officials during Marcelo's meeting with Ms Macapagal.

Marcelo had said he was fetched by a van at Wendy's Restaurant near Nagtahan Bridge for the short trip to the Palace. He said he was also made to pass through the Palace kitchen and was exempted from signing the logbook. He said there was no aide or official present during their meeting.

"If... nothing irregular... transpired during that meeting, if there was no hanky-panky involved... why then did Malacañang have to take extra measures to make sure that Marcelo did not bump into anyone who might see him inside the Palace grounds?" Oreta said. *With a report from AFP*

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News that makes a difference

DID HE MEDDLE IN DPWH PROMOTIONS?

Now it's Mikey's turn to be accused

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk
and Armand N. Nocum

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The President's son, Pampanga Vice Gov. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, yesterday denied having meddled in the promotion and reassignment of public works officials in Pampanga or in any other provinces.

"I didn't meddle. No way would I do that," Arroyo said, adding that he has repeatedly announced this policy to discourage "sycophants" from seeking favors.

Neither has he endorsed the promotion or reassignment of any DPWH official, the President's eldest son said.

"That's against the law. My mother (President Macapagal-Arroyo) has warned me time and time again not to meddle in government affairs except that which concern the provincial capitol," he said in a telephone interview.

Arroyo was reacting to reports that some public works officials had complained that the 32-year-old vice governor has been interfering in the reshuffle of regional directors and district engineers of the Department of Public Works and Highways, particularly those assigned to Region 3.

Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong yesterday denied the allegations, saying the young Arroyo has never "thrown his weight around" at his department.

"He's a good boy, very respectful," Datumanong said in a telephone interview.

"It's not true, the relatives of the President are not bothering me in any way," he said.

He said Arroyo had inquired from him about the kind of projects that could be implemented by local officials in Pampanga.

"I told him I could not help him on that, he had to go to the budget office for that," Datumanong said.

Arroyo said he has avoided meeting officials of the DPWH, the Bureau of Customs, the Sugar Regulatory Authority and the Bureau of Internal Revenue for "unofficial business" because these are "*mainit* (controversial agencies.)"

"I haven't also asked for contracts. I haven't also met these officials for informal dinners. But I do follow up on projects concerning the province," he said.

In an interview with the INQUIRER last July, Arroyo denied reports that he had called a top DPWH official in Central Luzon to a meeting in a Quezon City restaurant. Arroyo was barely month in office then.

In that meeting, in which Arroyo was with two of his most trusted aides, Arroyo allegedly ordered the DPWH official to "centralize" under him all contracts in the region.

The DPWH official, according to a source in the department, was "stunned."

"All throughout his assignment in Central Luzon, he (DPWH official) has never been called by a government official and given such an order," the source said in Filipino. The DPWH official declined to be interviewed.

Yesterday, Arroyo told the INQUIRER that reports like these were "*pulitika siguro* (maybe it's politics)."

"They never stop hitting me," he said, without naming the individual or group criticizing him.

Datumanong said the DPWH was pursuing its reform measures, including a check on alleged "lavish" lifestyle of the department's project management officers (PMOs) who handle billions pesos worth of infrastructure projects.

Korean vets to come together for Christmas

KOREAN War veterans from the five Battalion Combat Teams (BCTs) comprising the Philippine Expeditionary Force to Korea (Peftok) have started coming together once more for a more peace-filled mission—the celebration of Christmas.

Apart from Korean War Veterans Memorial Day on Sept. 7, the Christmas reunions of the different BCTs are the only annual event that brings together Peftok veterans who now number less than half of the more than 7,000 Filipino soldiers who served in Korea, the Peftok Veterans Association Inc. (PVAI) said.

Veterans of the 10th BCT will hold their reunion on Dec. 15 at the Veterans Center building, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City; 20th BCT vets will meet Dec. 23 at the multi-purpose PNP building, while the 14th and 2nd BCT members will hold their reunions simultaneously at Camp Aguinaldo on Dec. 20.

The 19th BCT held its get-together on Dec. 8 at Camp Aguinaldo.

The 10th and 2nd BCTs will also elect their officers during their reunion. Peftok veterans can call the PVAI at 911-25-79 for more information.

Col. Hwang Chil Sang, newly designated defense attache of the Korean Embassy, DND Undersecretary for Operations Antonio Santos and Gen. Salvador Mison (ret.) will be the guests of honor at the reunions.

Peftok's five BCTs lost over 100 men in action and suffered over 300 wounded against the North Koreans and the Communist "Chinese People's Volunteer Army" from 1950 to 1955.

The Peftok achieved a battlefield record against the North Koreans and Communist Chinese. Not one BCT was overrun or incapacitated as a result of enemy action during the Korean War despite many savage battles.

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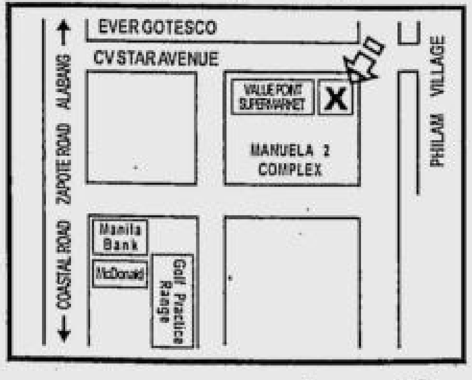

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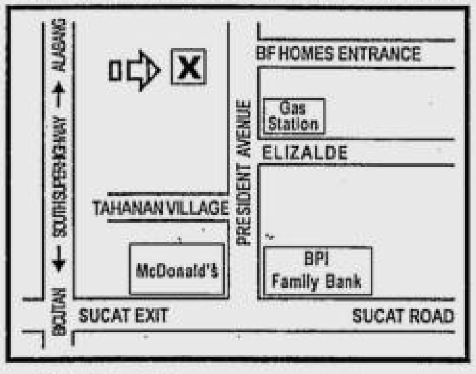

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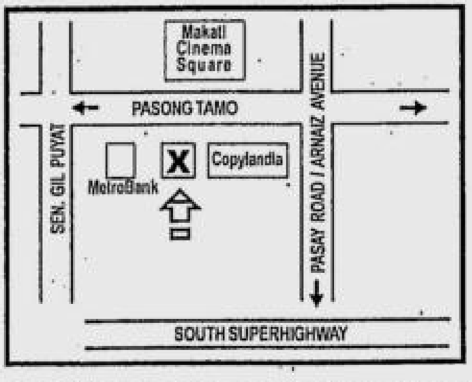

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‘Which firms did Danding buy with coco levy funds?’

BY TJ BURGONIO

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government should press Sen. Edgardo Angara and his former colleagues at the Accra law office to identify the 14 companies that businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco bought using the coconut levy funds.

The militant fisherfolk group Pamalakaya said yesterday that Angara and Accra have knowledge of "when and how" Cojuangco used coconut levy shares in San Miguel Corp. to acquire the 14 firms.

The group said that a battery of lawyers from Accra had been hired to clinch the deal.

"It is an open book. This was disclosed to the public in the early days of the post-People Power 1 revolution," Pamalakaya spokesperson Gerry Albert Corpuz said in a statement.

He added: "All Angara and Accra have to do is to affirm it and name the principals behind the biggest tax scam and how they squandered the money for their own selfish interests."

According to Pamalakaya, the PCGG had earlier requested the Senate blue ribbon committee to ask Angara and Accra lawyers to name the principals behind the alleged investment of P50 billion in coconut levy funds in the 14 holding companies.

A portion of the coco levy had been invested in SMC and is now worth about P50 billion. Cojuangco chairs SMC, the country's largest food and beverage firm.

Corpuz also called on PCGG chair Haydee Yorac not to entertain proposals for an out-of-court settlement on the coco levy fund, but to stick to the peasant groups' no-compromise position.

"This is to prevent Malacañang and Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. from scoring another compromise settlement similar to the one Dante Ang brokered in Davao City," he said.

Ang, publicist of President Macapagal-Arroyo, had admitted brokering "a negotiated deal" between Cojuangco and some farmers' groups over the P50-billion fund in October.

This, however, came under fire from other small coconut farmers, who insisted the government should never strike a deal with Cojuangco but pursue the litigation of cases against the businessman for the alleged plunder of the coco levy fund.

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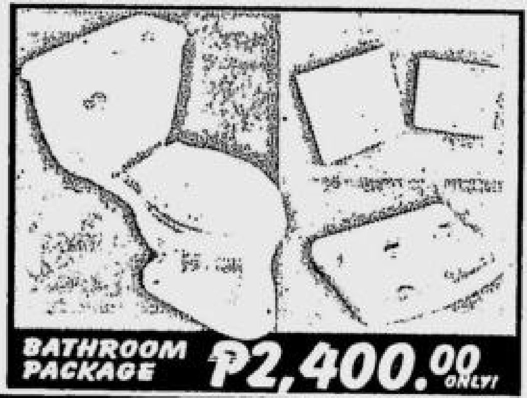

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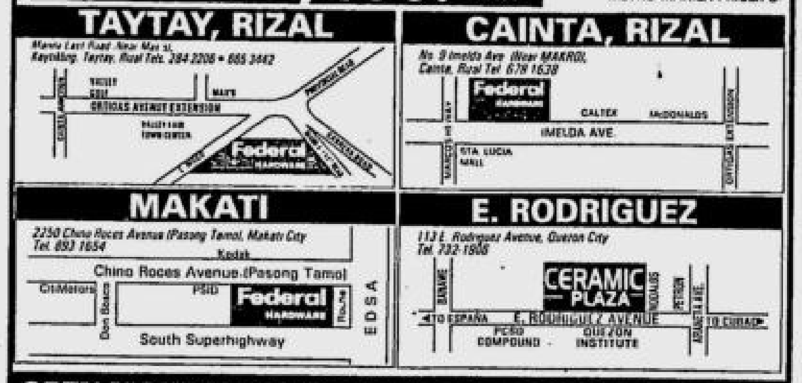
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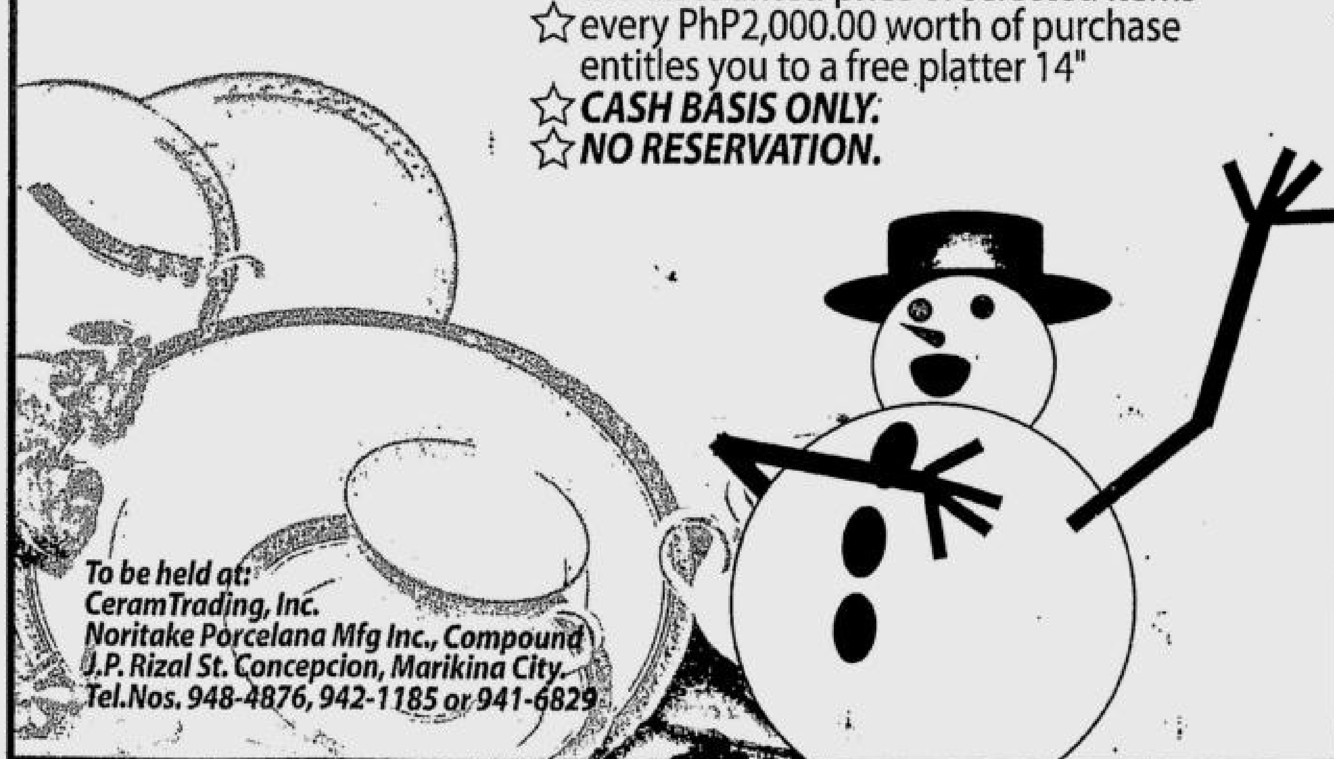

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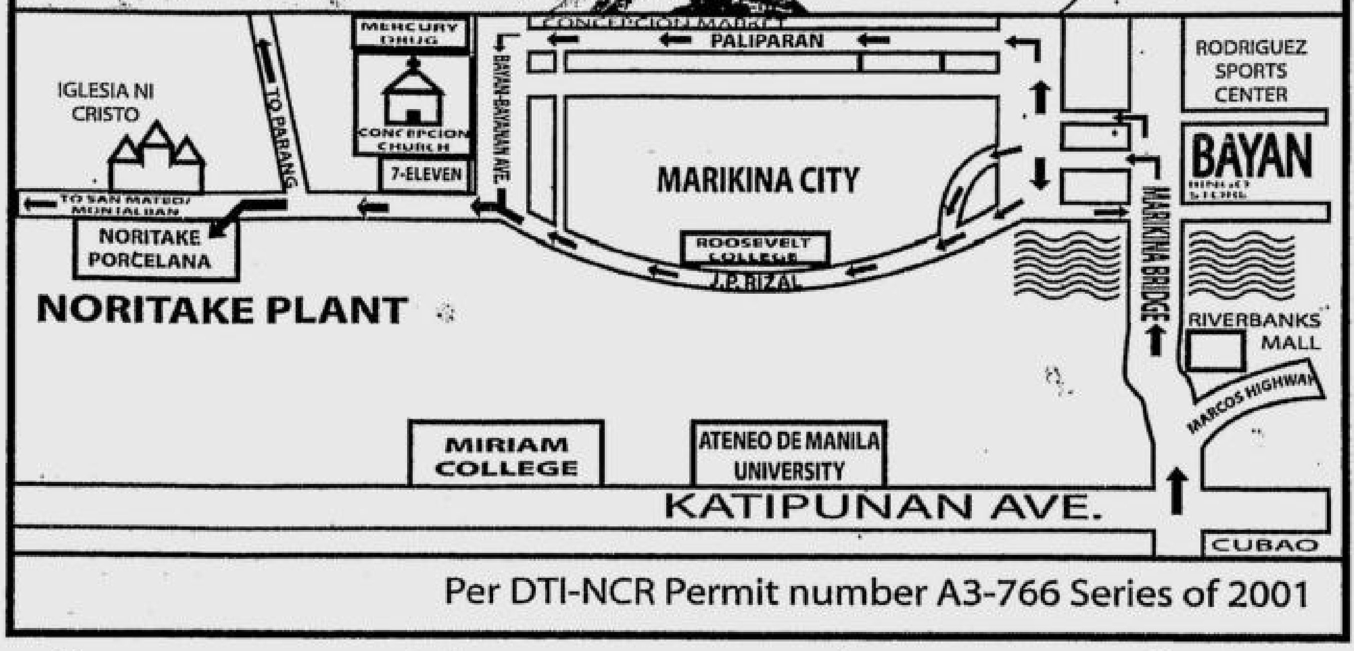

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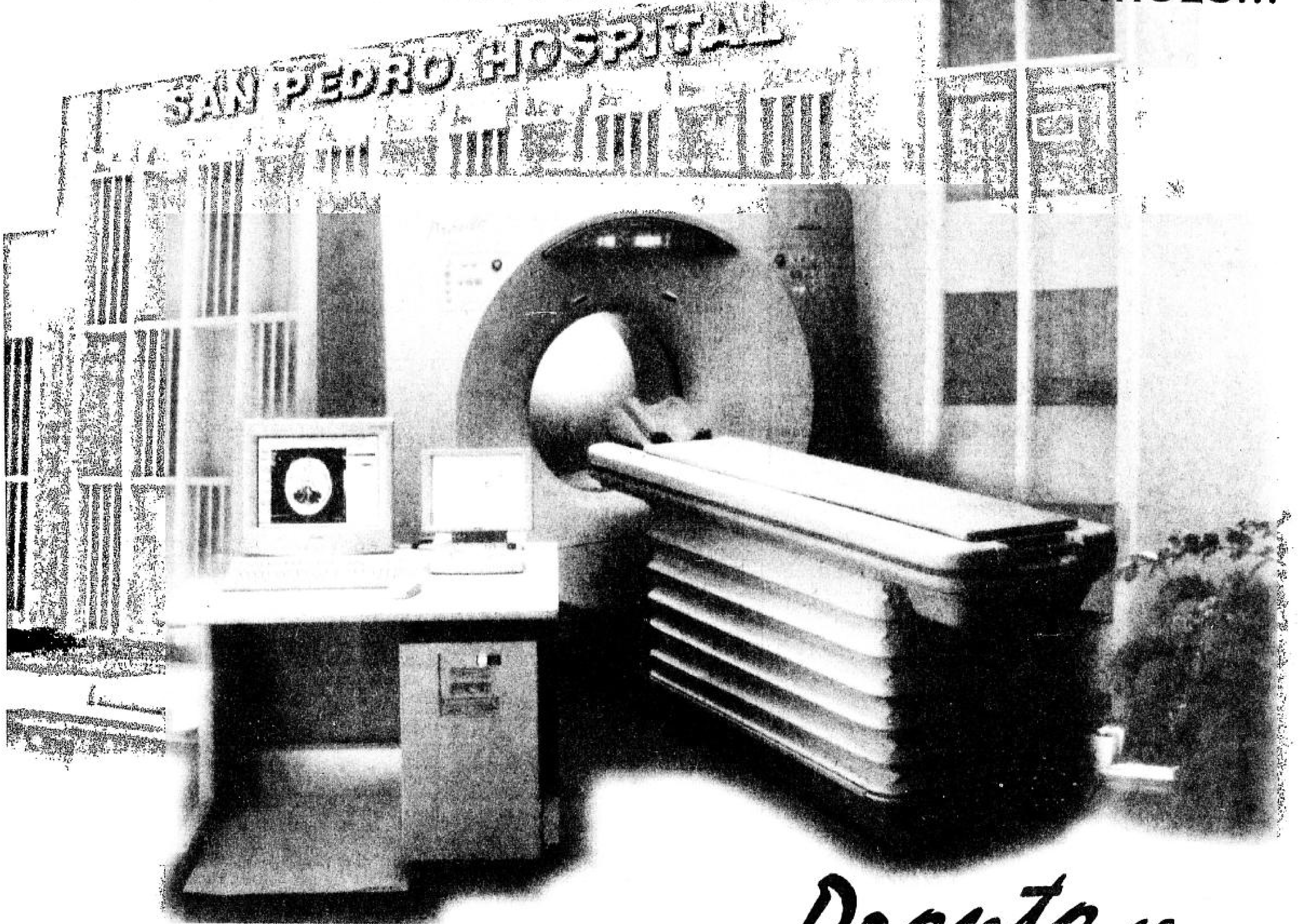

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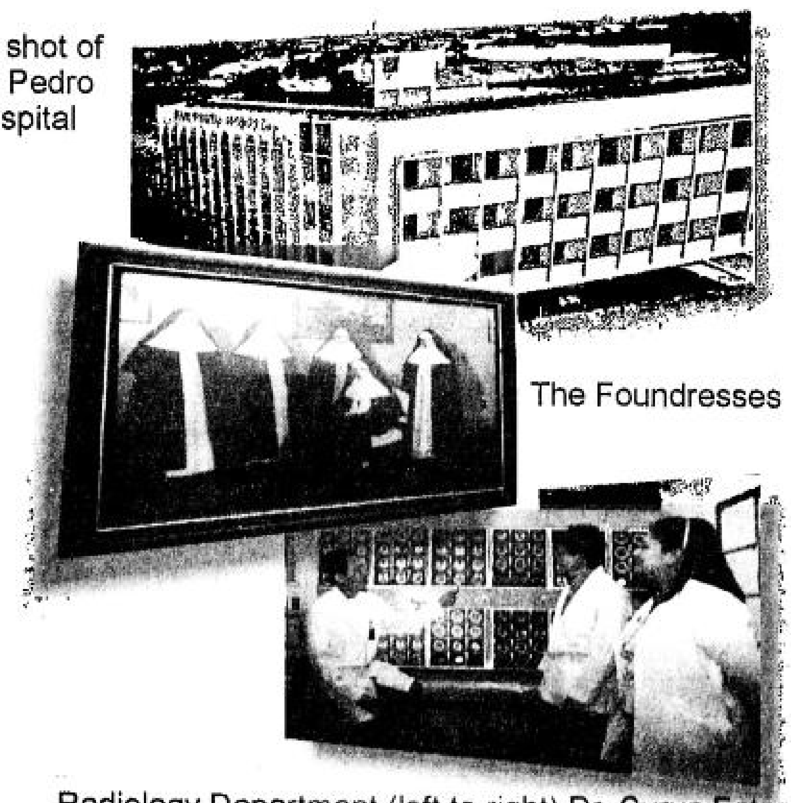

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Gloria links Estrada to her current woes

By D. Pazzibugan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has for the first time linked her ousted predecessor, Joseph Estrada, to the controversies and scandals besetting her 10-month-old administration.

In her weekly program "May Gloria Ang Bukas Mo" yesterday, Ms Macapagal said Estrada's allies were going "all out to destroy" her to save their leader from prison.

"It is their survival or mine because they are afraid that their leader will stay in jail or even be meted the death penalty. So (they have) nothing to lose, so (they will go) all out to destroy," she said.

She accused Estrada's allies of trying to destabilize her government, which she said was the reason her administration was being hounded by controversy.

Ms Macapagal yesterday also for the first time spoke publicly of her "dilemma" over Estrada.

"He has to face the music. Then his followers feel they would go down with him. So you reach out to them. But civil society (groups) will say, 'Oh, you're sleeping with the enemy.' This is my dilemma. What can we do to achieve unity?" she asked.

She expressed some exasperation when University of the Philippines professor Fredisgusto David suggested that all she had to do was uphold the rule of law.

Retorted Ms Macapagal: "So we (should) crack down on all these destabilizers?"

"We're not talking here about my husband. Because I can discipline him. We're talking about the guys who are trying to destroy him because they haven't come up with any evidence. But here they are. That's the one that's very destabilizing," she said.

At the same radio program, the President spoke proudly of her Assumption schooling which she said had helped in turning her into the kind of President the country needs today.

"They said I'm very disciplined and very focused. Analysts have said that I'm the right President for this time of global crisis because I'm disciplined, focused.

"I acquired these (traits) because I have a strict mother and from (the) Assumption," she told students of Our Lady of Peace School in Antipolo City from where her weekly program was beamed.

Ms Macapagal was the valedictorian of the Assumption Convent High School class of 1964, and graduated magna cum laude when she graduated from Assumption College in 1968.

Ms Macapagal said she would want all elementary and high schools to teach good Filipino values.

She recalled that at the Assumption there was a subject called "character education" in which the students were taught discipline.

"For example, in going to the comfort room we need permission. You can't borrow your neighbor's ballpen without asking for the teacher's permission... At the refectory everybody prays. Nobody talks until the nun claps. In the end, she claps again, then everybody is quiet," she said.

She said the school also instilled punctuality in her character. "When the President is punctual, government meetings are punctual, the citizens also become punctual. But if the President starts work in the afternoon, government (employees) also starts working late," she said, in apparent reference to jailed ex-President Estrada's work habits.

Speaker Jose de Venecia yesterday offered the embattled President some moral support telling her she was on the right track and should continue moving forward. *With a report from Juliet Labog-Javellana*

Erap can run, but can he hide?

By Volt Contreras

LAWYERS of jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada yesterday maintained that it would be impossible for their client to go into hiding if he is released from detention and allowed to travel to the United States to have surgery on his arthritic knees.

Lawyer Rene Saguisag said Estrada was too "well known" a personality to just "melt into the background" like an ordinary citizen.

Even if Estrada were to flee to the "tiny Bahamas," Saguisag said, he was bound to be seen there.

And if Estrada should fail to return, there is always extradition, Saguisag said in his reply to a motion by state prosecutors opposing Estrada's petition to be allowed to leave for California for surgery.

The deposed leader has been insisting on his right to see medical doctors of his choice even while in detention.

The Estrada-chosen medical team is led by Dr. Christopher Mow, a bone surgeon who is based in California.

In a recent letter to the Sandigan court handling the plunder case, Estrada said the medical team was unwilling to perform the operation in the Philippines because of the political situation and the lack of state-of-the-art medical facilities here.

Meanwhile, Estrada's co-accused son, Jinggoy, who was rushed to the Makati Medical Center on Friday afternoon after complaining of chest pains, has undergone a series of new tests for his heart problem, said Dr. Lorenzo Jocson, the Estrada family physician.

Jinggoy, the former mayor of San Juan town, would likely stay at the MMC for the rest of the weekend, Jocson said.

He is under the care of MMC cardiologist Robert Atanacio, whose opinion had been much quoted by Estrada lawyers seeking to have Jinggoy's detention at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center amended to house arrest at his San Juan residence.

Recognize Kabul gov't quickly–Ople

SEN. Blas Ople yesterday urged the government to extend quick recognition to the newly formed interim government in Kabul, Afghanistan, which will replace the Taliban regime on Dec. 22.

The new government formed under the auspices of the United Nations will be led by Prime Minister Hamid Karzai, who represents the majority Pashtun tribe in Afghanistan.

Ople, chair of the Senate committee on foreign relations, said the country's ambassador to Pakistan, Jorge Arizabal, could be designated concurrent envoy to Kabul.

"Our early recognition of the Karzai government will underscore our desire to see political stability and economic development immediately take off in that troubled country within a democratic framework," Ople said.

The new government took shape after six days of frenetic meetings sponsored by the United Nations and hosted by the German government in Bonn, Germany. *Cynthia D. Balana*

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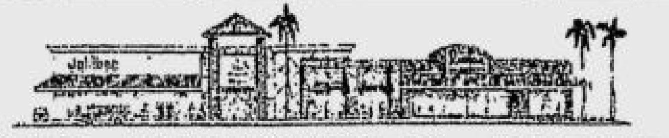

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Office/ Branch	Prize	Name	Retirement Number
(Home Office)	First Prize (P5,000.00)	Matilde Santos	PB-166756
		Eleuteria Cavan	PB160706
		Emilio Martino	R-224991
	Second Prize (P3,000.00)	Concepcion Villagracia	R-74384
		Cesar Padilla	PB-144634
		Ceferina Lagman	R-226187
	Third Prize (P2,000.00)	Gerardo Singson	PB-187458
		Victoria Solis	PB-33433
		Veronica Simperios	PB-18937
AREA I			
Baguio	First Prize	Fausto Patacsil	PB-158098
	Second Prize	Magdalena Bumakil	DI-003563
	Third Prize	Regina Nerona	PB-23828
Bataan	First Prize	Valentine Reboja	PB-187408
	Second Prize	Herminio Espinosa	PB-042359
	Third Prize	Quincia Mon	PB-172840
Batangas	First Prize	Felipe Lontok	R-068589
	Second Prize	Gertrudes Zara	PB-202336
	Third Prize	Alejandro Torres	R-234631
Bayombong	First Prize	Miguel Paduyao	PB-133928
	Second Prize	Eduardo Inggo	R-215017
	Third Prize	Felix Ojadas	PB-102848
Cabanatuan	First Prize	Luis Cordova	R-067633
	Second Prize	Amelia Villanueva	PB-209179
	Third Prize	Apolonia Muncal	PB-171144
Cauayan	First Prize	Maria Ganal	PB-121200
	Second Prize	Olympia Alluigan	PB-110480
	Third Prize	Norberto Culebra	PB-041962
Dagupan	First Prize	Mines C.Celino	DB-00183
	Second Prize	Angelita O. Sanchez	RB-01251
	Third Prize	Segundo M. Mamaradlo	PB-177009
La Union	First Prize	Benita D. Castro	RI-003350
	Second Prize	David Molina	R-255442
	Third Prize	Bienvenida Cariaso	DI-000497
Laoag	First Prize	Larie C. Buenafe	PB-024275
	Second Prize	Pastor I. Abella	R-082243
	Third Prize	Tereza C. Foronda	R-227298
Lucena	First Prize	Leandro M. Rodelas	PB-133869
	Second Prize	Julian P. Segui	PB-199956
	Third Prize	Jose Rivera	R-094642
Naga	First Prize	Valeriana Baranda	PB-157952
	Second Prize	Ernesto Perez	RC-001762
	Third Prize	Pedro Coronel	PB-147401
Palawan	First Prize	Cayetano Valones	R-060652
	Second Prize	Carmen Evina	R-217315
	Third Prize	Florencio Pablico	PB-231043
Pampanga	First Prize	Diosdado T. Tuazon	R-073427
	Second Prize	Tomas A. Yambao	PB-140258
	Third Prize	Catalino B. Lacap	PB-209453
Sorsogon	First Prize	Loretta E.Escoto	PB-14645
	Second Prize	Amando G. Guardian	PB-036351
	Third Prize	Bersabe A. Alcantara	PB-250735
Tarlac	First Prize	Melba B. Sublate	PB-255938
	Second Prize	Demetria A. Aquino	PB-181213
	Third Prize	Sergio T. Domingo	PB-198762
Tuguegarao	First Prize	Leonardo Quintero	DY-000221
	Second Prize	Feliciana U. Hugo	DY-125380
	Third Prize	Leontina P. Brandes	RY-064279
AREA II			
Bacolod	First Prize	Cristina L. Cruz	R-256086
	Second Prize	Catalina P. Flores	PB-180530
	Third Prize	Remedios A.Geraldoy	R-237017
Butuan	First Prize	Felisa Galeon	R@-900883
	Second Prize	Marcelino Calpo	D@-002627
	Third Prize	Zaida Ursua	RM-000501
Cagayan de Oro	First Prize	Madelo D.Desiderio	DF-002364
	Second Prize	Dativa N. Ochigue	PB-002759
	Third Prize	Leon D. Maghuyop	PB-187823
Cebu	First Prize	Pilar C. Daniel	PB-145846
	Second Prize	Consolacion L. Clarete	PB-115878
	Third Prize	Felisa S. Teves	PB-141738
Cotabato	First Prize	Ramona L. Bastez	DM-001278
	Second Prize	Delfin F.Lopez	RM-000488
	Third Prize	Rolando S. Tuburan	RM-002601
Davao	First Prize	Victor B. Escalera	RG-4455
	Second Prize	Efrain J. Sanz	RG-5055
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Dipolog	First Prize	Lorenza B. Adlaon	PB-213595
	Second Prize	Vidal S. Decierdo	PB-031447
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Dumaguete	First Prize	Edilberto Elmido	R-223841
	Second Prize	Filomeno E. Yap	PB-174973
	Third Prize	Lorenzo C. Bato	R-231744
Iloilo	First Prize	Olimpia Monteclaro	DE-001740
	Second Prize	Juana Esmero	PB-018273
	Third Prize	Clarita Osunero	DE-006177
Kidapawan	First Prize	Silverio Calibayan	PB-167880
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	Third Prize	Josefina C. Defensor	PB-134699
Maasin	First Prize	Reine Corro	RD-004613
	Second Prize	Brigido Mantilla	PB-041809
	Third Prize	Lutgarda Jabel	DD-005523
Tacloban	First Prize	Juana E. Delos Santos	DJ-07019
	Second Prize	Maria N. Macalalad	DJ-1456
	Third Prize	Emiliana T. Baldos	PB-118344
Tagum	First Prize	Celsa L. Inguillo	DG-002455
	Second Prize	Urbano C. Guliban	DG-000172
	Third Prize	Maxima M. Salvador	R-08241
Zamboanga	First Prize	Cristina P. Esperat	PB-033122
	Second Prize	Puahay I. Lao	PB-039047
	Third Prize	Isabel F. Marcos	DO-004329

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To our winning pensioners, our congratulations. The PPTBP Raffle is just one of the programs where the GSIS can extend additional benefits to its valued members.

(Sgd.) WINSTON F. GARCIA
President and General Manager

December 9, 2001 -- Inquirer

Even in death, slain OFW 'provides' for her family

BY NORMAN BORDADORA

"I DON'T know how we are going to live anymore."

The widower of the overseas Filipino worker killed in the recent bus bombing in Haifa, Israel, last week summed up his family's loss while waiting for his wife's remains to arrive at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on Friday evening.

Leonardo Reyes, 42, himself a former OFW, has a backyard livestock business at their home in Barangay Quilo-quilo in the remote town of Padre Garcia, Batangas.

The business apparently made only a small profit and the family had to rely on his wife Rosalia's earnings as a caregiver in Israel.

"She was the only one we were depending on. I was hoping she would be there to help me," said her weeping mother, Remedios Ilao, 74, in an earlier interview.

While the arrival of Rosalia's body finally made it clear to the Reyeses that they had lost her for good, it somehow eased some of the uncertainties the family faced with her death.

President Macapagal-Arroyo arrived at the Naia to personally condole with the family and spoke with them for 10 minutes behind closed doors in the presidential lounge.

She assured them the government would look after their welfare, especially the education and the subsequent employment of the children, Divinagracia, 21, and Richardson, 18.

Divinagracia will be graduating in March from a provincial college with a degree in development management while Richardson, who hopes to be a seaman, is on his second year at a maritime school in Las Piñas City.

"We will make sure that your family is properly taken care of," the President told Leonardo before they walked together to receive Rosalia's remains across the tarmac.

Ms Macapagal also reportedly also gave the family P50,000 in cash.

Besides the presidential assistance, the Reyes family was informed they are entitled to compensation from the Israeli government.

"They would be given economic support by the government of Israel," confirmed Irit Ben-Abba, Israel's ambassador to the Philippines, who came to the airport and saw the immense sorrow of the family.

The Betuach Leumi, or Israel's National Security Insurance, had earlier informed Philippine Embassy officials in Tel Aviv that the Reyes family is entitled to other benefits aside from funeral and related expenses.

"(Mr. Reyes) has asked us not to reveal the cost of the monthly pension his family will receive from the Israeli government. You must understand that they live in a small town in Batangas and they might have some problems," said Wilhelm Soriano, head of the Overseas Workers' Welfare Administration.

Soriano said that aside from the economic package from Israel, the Reyes family also stands to receive compensation from the Philippine government.

"We have been discussing the possibility of expanding his pig business in Batangas," Soriano said.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, on the other hand, told Divinagracia to report to the Department of Labor and Employment once she graduates.

"We'll have you take the civil service exams and get you a place in government," Sto. Tomas told her.

As for Richardson, Sto. Tomas assured him the government would help him get on board a ship once he completes his maritime studies two years from now.

"We are sad that (my wife) has died. But it is a good feeling to have the President herself come to see us and give her sympathies," said Leonardo.

All five Filipino victims of the Dec. 2 bomb attack in the northern city of Haifa were documented workers, and thus are entitled to full benefits under the Betuach Leumi.

The Filipino victims who were wounded were Mario Libao, Lily Basi and siblings Raul and Maricar Vivas. They will receive benefits that include, among others, free hospitalization, recovery and sick pay, medicines and medical treatment.

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Balitang Suwerte

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MGA PATOTOO NA ANG LUCKY PYRAMID AT MGA PRODUKTO NG JC HERBAL AY EPEKTIBO

Nagsimula ang suwerte para sa mag-asawang taga-Bayog, Los Banos, Laguna ng sila'y nakapulot ng dilaw na "Balitang Suwerte" na papel sa loob ng isang tricycle. Pagkapulot, pagkabasa at pagkatago sa papel na ito ay tumuloy na sila sa Olivarez Plaza (Los Banos) para mag-Bingo at para subukan kung totoo nga ang sinasaad ng papel na ito. Sila'y hindi nabigo dahil nanalo sila ng 7,000sa Harrison+5,000 sa Olivarez Plaza. P12,000.00 mula sa Bingo sa loob ng ilang linggo lamang. Nang mapatunayan ng mag-asawang ito na totoo ang sinasabi ng "Balitang Suwerte" ay pinuntahan nila ang JC Herbal and Lucky Pyramid para magbigay ng pa-totoo o patunay kay Engr. Margie D. Centeno, ang namamahala dito.

Dahil nakumbinsi ang mag-asawa sa suwerteng dulot ng "Balitang Suwerte" ay bumili sila ng dalawang Lucky Pyramid mula kay Engr. Centeno (isang green pyramid para kay Mrs. at isang white pyramid with face of Jesus Christ para kay Mr.). Noong ika-27 ng Pebrero 2001 bumili ang mag-asawa ng dalawang pyramid. Kinabukasan (ika-28 ng Pebrero) ay nag-Bingo muli ang mag-asawa sa Olivarez Plaza. Dito nakita ng mag-asawa ang tunay na kapangyarihan ng Lucky Pyramid dahil nanalo sila ng P50,000.00 JACKPOT sa Blackout game. Ngunit dahil kulang pa ang pera sa Olivarez Super Bingo para ibayad sa mag-asawa at nanalo sila ng dagdag na P4,500.00. Ang pangkahalatang panalo ng mag-asawa (mula ng mapulot nila ang "Balitang Suwerte" na papel hanggang sa nakabili ng mga Lucky Pyramids) ay P66,500.00.

Kinabukasan ay bumalik sa JC Herbal and Lucky Pyramid ang mag-asawa. Sa sobrang tuwa ng misis ay niyakap niya si Engr. Centeno at binigyan ito ng balato mula sa mga panalo nila. Malaking pasasalamat at utang na loob ng mag-asawang ito sa "Balitang Suwerte" at Lucky Pyramid. (Balato P1500)

Kung sinuman ang may gustong magkasuwerte sa buhay (sugal, negosyo, trabaho atbp.), subukan ninyo ang "Balitang Suwerte" at ang Lucky Pyramids. Walang mawawala o masasayang sa inyo. Malay mo, baka sa pagkabasa lamang ng papel na ito ay ikaw naman ang suwertihin. SUBOK NA!

CONGRATULATIONS!
Aling Emmy ng Los Baños, NANALO ng P50,000 sa BINGO ng JACKPOT sa Olivarez noong Dec.11, 2000 (last yr.) pagkabili ng WISHING PLANT at Lucky Pyramid sa JC Herbal. Thank you very much sa BALATO P1,050.

LUMAKAS ANG NEGOSYO! (GREEN PYRAMID)
"ALL MY DREAMS & WISHES came true like we were able to buy a HOUSE & LOT worth P2.5 Million, a PAJERO, & a TOYOTA COROLLA XE, for my daughter. I bought a GREEN PYRAMID at JC HERBAL center exhibit. I also got my U.S. Visa
- ELLEN B

MARCH 16, 2001
Ang kaibigan ko ay LUMAGO ANG NEGOSYO NIYA dahil sa GREEN PYRAMID
-Thelma
San Antonio L.A

October 26,2001
Dear Tita Marj,
Nanalo ako last week, P750.00, dapat P5,000. Sana nanalo ulit ako ng P2,500 hindi na kasi ako nakataya. Okey lang, next time na ulit. I wish.
Marilyn V Batangas

June 18, 2000
I won P50,000 consolation in Mid Special Bingo, last May.
Thanks for this blessing. nakabayad ako sa utang ko. Minsan sa isang araw, 3 beses akong manalo
Marilyn Villapando
Batangas

Nag-wish sa Wishing Plant nanalo ng JACKPOT sa BINGO (P100,000) sa Metropolis Alabang
August 21, 2000

Ako po si Bobby B. Almacen ng 1317 Agapita St., Marulas, Valenzuela City.
Pagkabili ko po ng Lucky Gold Pyramid at Wishing Plant ay nanalo po ako ng Black-out Bingo noong June 02, 2001 sa halagang P7,500.00. Matutulungan ko po ang aking anak na mabigyan ng panggastos sa paghahanap ng trabaho. Balato P100 + 50.00 donasyon. Maraming salamat kay Lord at sa JC Herbal, gayon din kay Engr. M. Centeno. Maraming Salamat po at dumating po ang suwerte sa akin.

Pinahiram ko lang ang kapatid ko ng Lucky Pyramid na binili ko kay Engr. Margie Centeno ay nagkaroon na siya agad ng trabaho natanggap siya bilang secretary sa isang kompanya. Maraming salamat po Engr. Margie Centeno.
ALLAN BELILA/ Tandang Sora, Q.C

SPO1 MALOU HERNANDEZ NANALO NG 25 MILLION JACKPOT SA LOTTO
"Yung kaibigan kong Policewoman na si Malou, bumili ng pyramid na may Jesus, yumaman, nanalo raw po siya sa Lotto, nagkaroon ng Toyota, nagkaroon ng malaking tindahan at nakapagpatayo ng malaking bahay. "EFFECTIVE TALAGA ANG FORTUNE PYRAMID kaya bumili rin ako ng Lucky Pyramid
- Erlinda Infante

NAGKA-P50 MILLION at NAGKA-BAHAY (P500,000!)
Bumili ako ng maliit lang na Pyramid tuloy-tuloy ang benta ko sa Jardine Land. Nag-top ako, Umabot ako sa P50M. In one year Nakarami akong AWARD na natanggap.
Syempre kasama ang dasal. Nagpa-aral ko ang mga anak ko sa College.
-Lyona / June 19, 2001

Mrs. Palamad nanalo sa Binondo Jackpot sa LOTTO bumili lang ng WISHING PLANT sa JC HERBAL

Nabigyan ako ng papel na balitang suwerte at nabigyan po ako ng $100.00. Maraming salamat po sa balitang suwerte na papel
-Sevillia B. Urate
Taguig M.M.

April 19, 2001
3:00 p.m. bumili ng pyramid, 4:00 p.m. nanalo sa BINGO sa Olivarez sa Los Banos. "Kabibili ko pa lang ng pyramid ako ay tumama agad sa BINGO ng P3,000.00
- Johnny Oriendo & Maritess, Tuntungin, Los Banos, Laguna

March 07, 2001
Ako po si Victoria Cristobal, ng Las Pinas. Bumili po ako ng Green Pyramid at totoo na hindi kayo mauubusan ng pera, gastos lang ako ng gastos at laging may dudugtong na pera, totoo talaga at huwag kayong manghihinayang. Ang numero na ibinigay nila sa akin, lumabas last Feb. 21 - P41,000 ang prize sa LOTTO 4-digit, kaya lang hindi ko natayaan pero talagang masaya ako dahil hindi ko problema ang pera ngayon, parang tubig talagang dumadaloy papunta sa akin

March 19, 2001
Thank you God, at sa recognition ng anak ko sa March 26, 2001, aakyat ako sa stage at nag 1st honor sa klase nila, pinahiran ko lang ng pampatalino na nabili ko sa Metropolis.
Maraming salamat.
Mrs. Oliva - Sta. Rosa, Laguna

Ang magandang si Jessel P. Alicaya ng Crisolita, San Andres, Manila na 24 taong gulang na ngunit ng subukan ang HEIGHT PLUS, tumangkad pa siya ng 1 1/2 inch after 2 days lang. Ayon sa kanya, "Thanks sa JC Herbal, talagang epektibo po ang HP".

"Nanalo kami sa Jai-alai (Mar. 15, 2001) sa tip ni Engr. Margie D. Centeno na 2-3-9 after 5 days. P4,000.00"
- Cesar Mendez (Jobless) & Mrs. Mendez (Buntis)/ Balintawak Q.C.

Dalawang beses kaming nanalo sa "Bingo" Circle 8, P2,500 Consolation Prize at ang pangalawa, Blackout Games, nanalo kami ng P4,000 Consolation prize sa Blackout games at kamuntik rin kaming manalo ng P100,000 ng ipatong namin ang ginupit namin na Lucky Pyramid sa dyaryo ng Toro. Ang total na tinamaan namin ay P6,500 - Cris Bedania/ Maiitim Bay, Laguna

GOOD NEWS BALITANG SWERTE TALAGA
Bumili ng 2 pyramid sa JC Herbal, kumita ng P10M sa loob ng 1 buwan, lumakas ang negosyo (Green & White Pyramid)
- Nakabili ng 2 bagong sasakyan (bibili pa ng 1 bago)
- Nakabili ng 1 condominium
- Nakabili ng shares sa Fantasy World, super yaman na talaga

CONGRATULATIONS!
Businesswoman from Cubao bumili ng Wishing Plant at Lucky Pyramid, nanalo ng Lotto Jackpot P8million

2 DAYS LANG, NAGKA-BAHAY! VERY EFFECTIVE! LUCKY PYRAMID at Pampa-TALINO
Maraming salamat kay Engr Centeno dahil maraming bagay na nagpapatunay na very effective ito sa akin.
1 Two days ng nagka-pyramid ako, nagkabahay kami, hindi na kami umuupa.
2 Dahil sa Miracle Oil, achiever ang anak ko
3. Ang palagi kong problema ay malimit na pagsakit ng ulo ko noong isang linggo. Akala ko mamamatay na ako sa tinding sakit. Naisip ko ang sinabi ni Engr. na ilagay ko lang sa ulo. At pinawis ko, napakabilis na nawala agad ang sakit. Napakaginhawa ng pakiramdam ko. Salamat po.
- Carol Manejo April 24, 2001

DUMATING ANG U.S. VISA
Dec. 1, 2001
Sa tatlong lingong pagkabili ko ng malaking blue pyramid, pinatong ko sa 4 na passport naming mag-anak, dumating ang VISA namin for the States!
At sa pagdidilig ko ng Wishing Plant Wednesday na makapasa ang kapatid ko sa Interview sa London,, pumasa siya at nakaalis papuntang London nong Oct. 5.
Thank you very much!
Lord Jesus Christ!
Joy Cuasay ng Marikina Hts.
0917-4881618

Congrats sa aking kapatid, niregaluhan ko ng Gold Pyramid isang buwan lang naka-alis papuntang Taiwan, after 2 months, nanalo siya sa pa-raffle na appliances at nitong Christmas Party nila sa Taiwan nanalo ulit siya ng 50,000 Taiwan dollars.
Nakapag-ABROAD na sa TAIWAN, 2 BESES pa NANALO sa CHRISTMAS RAFFLE ang kapatid na may GOLD PYRAMID (Prizes: Appliances & 50,000 Taiwan Dollars)
- Mrs. L. S. Olivia

Ako po si Frederick Paguirigan ng Baclaran, Paranaque, (Bartender ng isang restaurant). Nanalo po ako ng Jai-Alai noong June 02, (P5,590.00) 4-2-5. Matutulungan ko na ang kapatid kong nag-aaral.

FROM MAGUINDANAO NANALO NG 20,000.00
Nag-order ng Pyrramid thru LBC at humingi ng instant tip nagpadala ng balato; P1,500 TALAGANG TOTOO!

Nagpabili lang po ang kaibigan ko kay Engr. Margie Centeno sa akin ng "LUCKY PYRAMID" noong nakaraang buwan. Makalipas ang 2 linggo ay nakapag-abroad siya. Talagang mabisa ang Lucky Pyramid ni Engr. Margie.
- ALLAN BELNA Quezon City/ June 03, 2001

12 yrs. RAYUMA ng Retired Military Officer, nawala sa JUVENOL, ANG GALING TALAGA NG JUVENOL, pampa-HABA pa...ng...BUHAY!

Engr. Centeno,
Maraming salamat po sa inyo at sa HEIGHT PLUS dahil sa loob ng isang linggo ay tumangkad po ako ng 3 inches.
Thanks sa HEIGHT PLUS
- RUDONG/ Caloocan City

NAKADEAL NG P1.2M!!!
Ginupit lang sa dyaryo ang pyramid, nakapagdeal sa lupa ng P1.2M at kumita sa komisyon ng halagang P300,000. Salamat sa Pyramid at Engr. Margie. "EFFECTIVE ANG PAMPA-YAMAN NA PAPEL!!!"

DUMAMI ANG SASAKYAN AT NAGKA-CONDOMINIUM
Bumili ako ng PYRAMID na GREEN, at isang patotoo ako ay naka-sadya ng mga truck 2 pati na isang unit na condo at isang Besta Van at Honda Type Z.
Maria Corazon P. Palad/ Laguna

"Nanalo ako ng P23,000 sa MEGA LOTTO noong June 3, 1999" Nanalo si SPO3 RF ng South Cotobato matapos makabili ng GOLD PYRAMID / 03-17-01

Effective ang JC Miracle Oil sa pampatalino dahil bago mag-exam ang anak, ipinahid niya sa noo at hindi siya nahirapan sa exam nya kaya ngayon matataas ang grades nya.
Ipinahid ko rin sa dibdib at likod ng bunso kong anak at nawala ang ubo nya. Okey talaga.
Thank you very much
- Nimfa Marcos Gasang/ San Mateo

TEXT 4 2DAY
DAPAT nanalo ng P19 MILLION sayang!! di ko natayan. Tama sana ako ng jackpot kagabi, August 20, 2001 sa nos. 33-43-12-29-23-26 sa 6/45
Nakabili ng Multi-colored pyramid worth P11,500 best buy "Pang Jackpot"
-Engr. Edgar F. Fernando/Calamba

NATUYO ANG PIMPLES 2 DAYS LANG
Miracle Soap is Relly effective in just 2 dyas, my pimples dried up
-Josie de Luna/Tambo, Lipa City
Sept. 03, 1997

"Police Investigator from Sultan Kudarat
Bumili ng GOLD PYRAMID at WISHING PLANT nanalo ng Jackpot sa LOTTO.

CONGRATS
MRS. BISAYA ng STA. ROSA LAGUNA, (bibili lamang ng buko pie, napadaan lang sa JC HERBAL, bumili ng PYRAMID & WISHING PLANT NANALO NG JACKPOT SA LOTTO P23M. MAYAMAN NA NGAYON, UMUWI NA NG VISAYA, SWERTE TALAGA.

CONGRATULATIONS
Mr & Mrs ng Cabuyao, Laguna, NANALO NG JACKPOT sa LOTTO, P25M.NAGPATAYO ng malaking BAHAY. Nakabili ng LUCKY PYRAMID & WISHING PLANT sa JC HERBAL sa LOS BANOS (nasaan ang BALATO namin kahit na maliit na bahay kubo lamang - BIRO lang. MAGPATOTOO KAYO!

WALA NA AKONG UTANG-Nakabayad ako ng mga utang kong 50 thousand buhat ng makabili ako ng Pyramid kay Engr. Margie Centeno. Maraming salamat kay Lord at Engr. Centeno.
From: Jose of Sta. Rosa, Laguna

JUDY BALLECERO (ESTUDYANTE)
NANALO NG JACPOT SA LOTTO PAGKABILI NG GOLD PYRAMID NOONG 1997 SA ISETAN RECTO EXHIBIT NAKABILI NG HOUSE & LOT SA CEBU DATING NANGUNGUPAHAN SA CUBAO
-JULIUS (KAIBIGAN)

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OVAGEN-Pampa-taba	P300 only
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Note:
WALA NA PO TAYONG EXHIBITS SA METRO MANILA DITO PO LAMANG MAKAKABILI SA JC HERBAL, Anos Los Baños.

MILYUN-MILYONG PREMYO HINAKOT NG PYRAMID
*Security Guard (Harrison Plaza) Centaur Sec. Services-nanalo ng P17.5 MILLION JACKPOT SA LOTTTO nagka Condo, nagka Pajero pa Matapos bumili ng Pyramid

SPO1 Malou Hernandez ng WPD nanalo ng 25 MILLION JACKPOT sa LOTTO -B Bumili ng White Pyramid sa QC Hall Exhibit nanalo P3MILLION JACKPOT SA LOTTO
*Jhanet Bolalin- nanalo ng P1 Million sa Bingo sa Farmers Plaza Dec. 19, 1998 matapos makabili ng Gold Pyramid.
* Mrs. Rose Lim ng Project 4 QC nagwagi rin ng P1 MILLION sa Bingo sa Farmers Plazza matapos makabili ng Green Pyramid.

HERBAL PRODUCTS
6/3/01
Nakabili ako ng Hair Growing Herbal at napaka effective po. Isang linggo lang may tumubo nang 1 centimeter. Salamat sa Lucky Pyramid ni Engr. Maggie Centeno.
BOBBY VINCULADO
Sto. Niño,
Muntinlupa City
--ooOoo--
Mar. 1, 2001
Tinubuan ng buhok sa RICH HAIR after 2 weeks Aris Villegas
-CECIL VILLEGAS
Mayondon, L.B.
--ooOoo--
Mar. 1, 2001
Tinubuan ng buhok yung kaibigan ko after using 15ml. of RICH HAIR GROWER
-RAQUEL G.of Anos
Los Baños, Laguna
--ooOoo--
Salamat Engr. Centeno nawala ang sakit ng ulo ko. Tinapat ko lang ang Pyramid sa noo ko ng 10 minutos lang.
Salamat po
-JUNE TADEO
--ooOoo--
Iwas 158 cm, tall before, in just 22 hours, I increased my height to 160 cm. After taking Heiht Plus! Ako po yung bumili ng height + nung Sabado. Bumili rin po ako ng Miracle Oil. Ipinahid lang nya sa katawan nya dahil masakit ang katawan nya. Nawala agad ang sakit
Liezel Alano - 0919-5530118

Gumamit ng Pampa-YAMAN "Gamot sa sakit sa Bulsa." Hindi kayo mauubusan ng PERA. Talagang Totoo Lalong Gumagastos, lalong dumarating ang PERA. Walang Mawawala kung susubukan. YAYAMAN KA LANG

Pampa-TRABAHO
Pampa-ABROAD
Panlaban sa SUGAL para laging PANALO SA LOTTO, JAI ALAI, BINGO, ENDING, SWEEPTAKES atbp.

Engr. MARGIE D. CENTENO
Young Inventor of the Year 1990 one of the 10 Most Outstanding Inventor 1993

100 x NANALO SA Bingo.
Engr. Centeno
Very Effective ang WISHING PLANT & RED & WHITE PYRAMID

Ginupit ko and ads sa Balita sunod-sunod na swerte ang dumating sa buhay ko. P80,000.00 + P50,00.00 sa maikling panahon Maski sa bahay ay may dumarating na swerte. This is a true experience.
Atty. Romeo N. Gomez N.B.-Atty. ng San Pedro

CONGRATULATIONS!
Oct 27, 2001
NANALO po sa LOTTO taga-PALAWAN siya po ang nagbalita sa aking parent dahil sa PYRAMID na binili niya sa Los Baños. Kaya kami rin ay nagsusumikap na makabili rin ng Pyramid para makabayad kami ng aming pagkakautang siya raw ay gumandaang business dahil sa PyramidOct 27, 2001
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America offers words, not soldiers against Abu

BY JULIE ALIPALA-INOT
PDI Mindanao Bureau
AND ARMAND N. NOCUM

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The leader of the 17 US servicemen who arrived here on Friday denied they would be joining the operations against the Abu Sayyaf.

Lt. Col. John Christian said they would only provide advice and "assistance" to the military.

"We came here to assist the AFP, to help train and advise the AFP in its efforts to rescue the hostages," Christian told reporters at the AFP Southern Command headquarters yesterday morning.

He said that although there was great concern on the part of the United States for the safety of the hostages, it would not send troops to stage a rescue operation.

Christian also said they now understand why the operation against the Abu Sayyaf has dragged on for months.

He said it was because of the difficult terrain, compounded by social issues, but he did not elaborate.

Before taking off for Manila on the same C-130 plane that brought them here, the American servicemen again met with Southcom officials.

Col. Danilo Servando, Southcom spokesperson, said later the US has pledged to "help the military source some logistics from other countries and maybe locally produce war equipage."

As this developed, the military said American missionary Martin Burnham and his wife, Gracia, are now being held by Hamsiraji Sali, the Basilan-based Abu Sayyaf leader.

The military said the same group is also holding Ediborah Yap, a nurse who was seized during the siege of Lamitan on June 2.

Zamboanga City businessman Li Peng Wee yesterday denied reports that he accompanied Sen. Panfilo Lacson to Malaysia to negotiate the release of the Abu Sayyaf hostages.

In a telephone interview, Wee also lashed out at "Manila media" for failing to get his side of the story.

"The media has been reporting this for three days now and no one bothered to ask me if it was true. The INQUIRER has reporters here and in Zamboanga, but no one bothered to call me," he said.

Wee called up the INQUIRER to deny Malacañang's claim that he went to Malaysia with Lacson.

Wee, who served as ousted President Joseph Estrada's consultant for Mindanao affairs, had helped secure the release of Malaysian hostages taken from Sipadan last year.

But this time, he said, he was staying out of such negotiations.

It was Presidential spokesperson Roberto Tiglao who said that Wee had accompanied Lacson to a meeting with Malaysian negotiator Sairin Karno in Sabah.

Wee said Tiglao may have been fed the wrong information. He blamed this on his critics whom he did not name.

New witness could shed light on Nida's last hours

BY JEROME ANING

A NEW witness who could testify to slain movie actress Nida Blanca's final hours has passed a lie detector test, sources at the National Bureau of Investigation said yesterday.

The NBI sources said the female witness whom they refused to identify proved "negative for deception" and "can be considered credible."

The bureau, which entered the case after police bungled the probe into the popular actress' slaying, subpoenaed the witness the other day and requested that she undergo a polygraph test.

The witness is reportedly an employee at the Atlanta Center building in Greenhills, San Juan, where Blanca worked and where her body was found on Nov. 7.

Investigators said the witness could help them reconstruct Blanca's "missing hours," the time between 5 p.m. of Nov. 6, when she left the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board office at the Atlanta, to 8 a.m. the following day, when her bloodied body was found in her car in the building's parking garage.

NBI agents said the new witness may be the only "credible" witness they have in the case—at least for now.

Additionally, the NBI is reportedly investigating another witness who was referred to it by the Department of Justice.

This witness claimed he was offered money to kill a "Chinese-looking woman" in Quezon City sometime last August.

On Friday, Blanca's daughter, Kaye Torres, and the actress' accountant, Catherine Alba, went to the NBI to execute affidavits regarding Blanca's financial activities.

Torres told reporters she gave a sworn statement detailing her mother's financial transactions, but she refused to reply to questions about her relationship with her stepfather, Rod Strunk.

Asked if she thought her statement would help uncover the motive for the crime, Torres replied, "Definitely."

Torres' statement reportedly dealt mainly with property and financial matters. The NBI clarified that the statements they took from the two did not focus on the crime itself but on a possible motive.

Torres and Alba gave their statements in different offices—Torres at the NBI neuro-psychiatric division and the accountant at the NBI main building.

Disabled featured in cultural concert

PARTICIPANTS and winners of President Macapagal-Arroyo's Kalahi cultural project are joining The Earthsavers Dreams Ensemble, a critically acclaimed performing group made up of people with disabilities, street children and tribal youth, in a Christmas Dance Theater Concert.

"Pamaas," the Manobo equivalent of blessings for all, will be held at 7:30 tonight at On Stage at Greenbelt, Makati City in observance of UN World Disability and Human Rights Day during the year of dialogue among civilizations.

The unique concert gives a face to a caring and sharing society and will feature "Asia's Queen of Songs" Pilita Corrales and Kalahi cultural icon awardees Tony Lambino and Bayang Barrios as special guest artists.

Talents from 14 barangays, including Muslim communities, have been trained at the Philippine ITI Center/Earthsavers Dreams Academy under the direction of Ramon Magsaysay Outstanding Asian Artist Awardee Cecile Guidote Alvarez, wife of Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez.

The concert is free.

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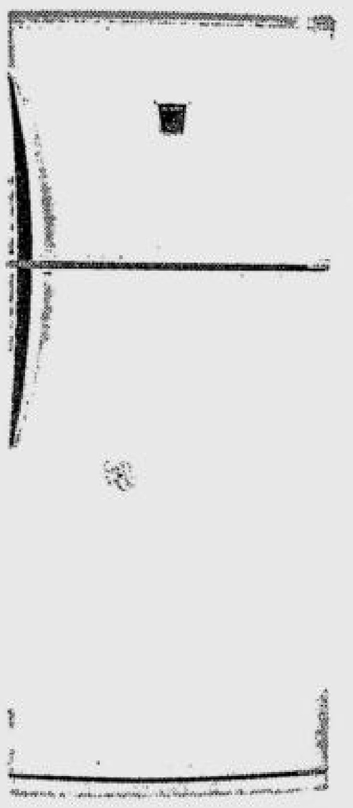

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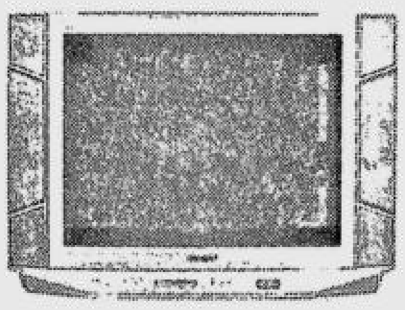

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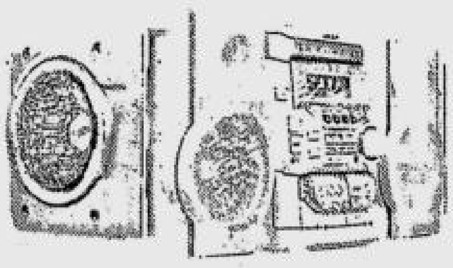

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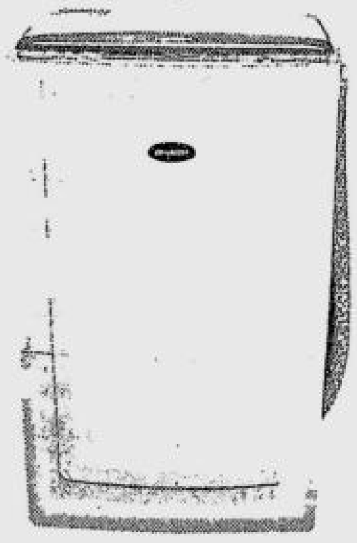

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EDITORIALS

16 years. . .

IF the atmosphere is festive here today, it's more than the holiday season that's triggering it. In truth the mood is not so much festive as nostalgic given that all of 16 years have passed since this newspaper saw the light of day in a one-room affair in a building in Intramuros where, pioneers recall, the equipment and furniture were hand-me-down but the spirit was mint-new. On the first night the electricity sputtered and gave out, and panicked editors pored over copy (typewritten! on faded ribbons!) by candlelight. Instead of having a coronary, founding chair Eugenia D. Apostol noted the dramatic touch and beamed with delight, lending considerable wattage to the scene.

The mood is not so much festive as bemused given the long journey the newspaper has taken—and yet by the life of them the women and men who produce it cannot remember growing older. Various offices replaced that one-room affair in the course of its coming to roost in this glass-and-steel structure it now calls home. One was a storied restaurant with a staircase so grand the nervous reporter would expect a wraith to materialize holding a candelabrum aloft. But it would only be the heavyweight Luis D. Beltran, since gone to that cockpit in the sky, whistling as he took a bantam rooster home. Another was a building that shook mightily when The Big Quake hit, rolling with the punches, as it were. Yet another had mice blithely springing from desk drawers to the tune of terrified, unglamorous shrieks, as well as a narrow hallway that, at any given time in the afternoon or night, was lined by smokers banished from the newsroom'and petulantly flicking ash onto a potted plant.

The mood is not so much festive as proud given how swiftly the newspaper has grown in resources and reach, its people not only technologically capable of bringing the news fast to points north and south and everything in between, but also mindful and protective of its role in society. To think that we started out on the sly, so to speak, mosquito-like, if nothing else, daring a dictatorship so accustomed to the effects of its terrorism that it could not tell when it was on its last legs.

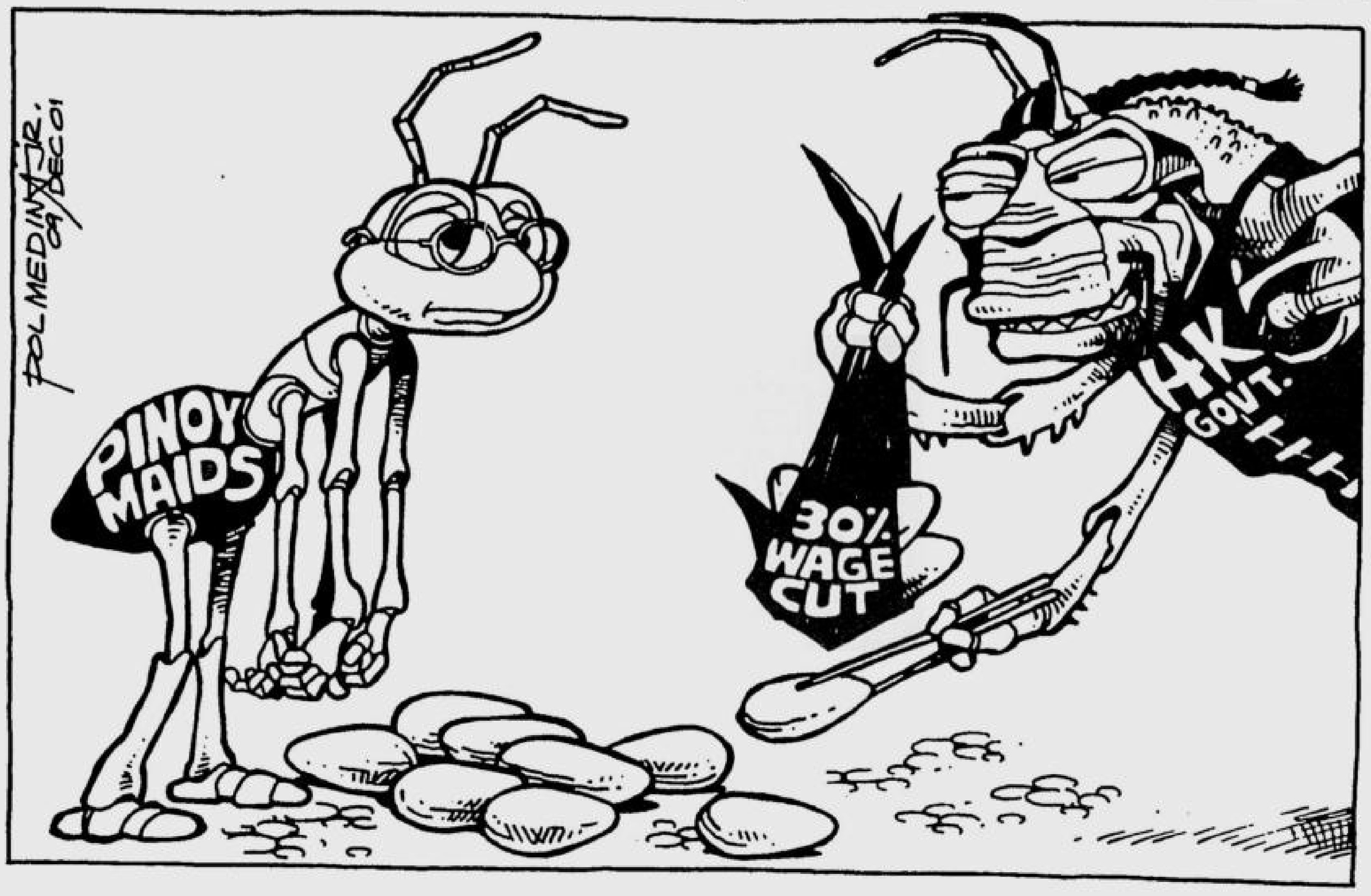
And the mood is not so much festive as hopeful given the demands of the times and—the stuff of newspapering—the constant exquisite tension of being both recorder and participant of events. But hey, that's cool. We try not to sweat it. We're 16 years old by the grace of The Force and the skin of our teeth. If the electricity sputters and gives out tonight, we will pause, sniff the air suspiciously—and the generator will automatically kick in.

. . .And counting

IN THIS day and age newspapering is hardly a walk in the park, as those who have fallen by the wayside will attest. The startling strides of technology have been both boon and bane, easing what used to be the arduous process of publishing but also taking away from the printed page the attention that once was largely devoted to it. Now newspapers have to compete in a vast arena, jostling for attention with the infinite wonders of cyberspace and the everyday realities of the human condition, all the while trying to keep its footing in the mine-filled tundra created by television.

The INQUIRER has come a long way from the time it flung down the gauntlet in the Marcos era. We have witnessed and reported administrations come and go. We have negotiated the peaks and valleys of survival ranging from unprecedented growth to political pressure to a potentially crippling advertising boycott. Having come this far, we strive still to grow. We strive to maintain our place in the marketplace of ideas and to endure because, as the poet Mongane Wally Serote said somewhere, "we want the world to know" and must "page for wisdom through the stubborn night."

Most of all we aspire. To be attentive to the quicksilver quality of life and, therefore, to be true to personal and institutional creeds that define us as human beings and as professionals worthy of the name. And, always, "to say the unsayable, to speak the unspeakable, to ask difficult questions." (Those are Salman Rushdie's words that, of course, we wish were ours.)



What's with Serge Osmeña?

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

I HAD much admiration for Sergio Osmeña III before, particularly because of his conduct during the impeachment proceedings against Joseph Estrada. Osmeña was one of the Anti-Erap candidates I enthusiastically supported in the last election as a principled and sober public official, who deserved the people's trust.

I was not alone in this belief because Osmeña emerged among the top winners in that election. His impressive victory was a vote of confidence for his outstanding record during the preceding term and augured well for his continued sterling performance during his current term.

I was disappointed, though, when after attacking the Erap candidates during the campaign, he decided to join them in the present opposition. This smacked to me of an obvious lack of candor that belied his image of integrity and unbending conviction. I thought it was not like him to be sleeping with the enemy he had earlier lambasted with apparent scorn. It was as if he was condoning their offenses after vigorously condemning them.

I had to concede, though, that this was not unusual in the sneaky world of politics and politicians. Emmanuel Pelaez changed political parties several times and was labeled a "political butterfly." But this did not mar his distinguished public service. Ferdinand Marcos defected from the Liberal Party when it denied him the presidential nomination and joined the Nacionalista Party where he got it. This politician became a disgrace to the Filipino nation.

Eager to justify Osmeña, I decided that his inconsistency was all for the best because we did need a strong minority in the Senate to keep it independent of the administration. If the impeachment of Erap had not been abruptly terminated, the past Senate could not have convicted him because his supporters outnumbered the opposition. I did not want this situation to continue just in case it might be necessary to impeach the sitting president.

But it was not his turncoatism that has changed my opinion of Osmeña. It is his recent curious conduct that, I regret to say, has marred his otherwise flawless record during his many years of public service.

Many people were surprised when Osmeña challenged the sworn declarations of Reghis Romero at the hearings of the House of Representatives that he did not pay the Abu Sayyaf anything for his release. According to the lawmaker, the bandit kidnappers actually received a ransom of P17 million and, worse, secretly shared it with some military and local officials. Inexplicably, he came out with his exposé months after the event.

Prodded to reveal the names of the culprits, the senator demurred. He said Malacañang knew who they were, implying that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was privy to the transaction that, significantly, violated the no-ransom policy of the government. Osmeña said that the President should not feign ignorance of the matter lest she be embarrassed later by what he would reveal. *"Baka mapahiya siya,"* he said, with a trace of confident mockery.

By being coy, Osmeña probably wants to milk the situation dry to keep him in the headlines, which again is not like him. Maybe he just wants to leave the people in suspense although his insinuations against the "certain military officers" are clear enough to identify them. Such a tactic is unfair because the persons placed under suspicion by his innuendoes cannot adequately defend themselves. All they can limply say now is "I don't know anything about it."

Osmeña may well hesitate at this time to point to the persons involved in the claimed ransom payment. If he has no credible evidence to back up his accusation, he runs the risk of civil and criminal action from his maligned victims. Osmeña says some persons in Malacañang called him up to borrow his airplane for the delivery of the ransom and that he received the call in the presence of several high officials. Even if they should affirm this statement (and this is not even certain), that kind of evidence is of little or no value in court.

Osmeña's best move if he really means to identify the ransom sharers "at the proper time and place" is to wait for the investigation of his charges by the Senate. He said on TV the other day that he could not be compelled to appear at such investigation, but I probably misheard him. At any rate, he knows or should know that whatever he may say at the hearing will be protected by his parliamentary privilege of speech and debate as guaranteed by Art. VI, Sec. 11 of the Constitution. This provides in part as follows:

"No Member (of the Senate or the House of Representatives) shall be questioned nor be held liable in any other place for any speech or debate in the Congress or in any committee thereof."

As long as the remarks are made in the discharge of official duty and while the legislature or the committee is in session, they cannot be the subject of judicial action. That is the reason why, whenever a member of Congress denounces a person under these conditions, the victim's reaction is to dare the legislator to repeat his charges outside the protective halls of Congress.

The legislator will not accept the challenge because the parliamentary privilege is intended precisely to encourage him to speak freely on matters of public interest, usually anomalies that otherwise would never be disclosed. In Osmeña's case, he can, without worrying about being haled to court, categorically identify all the military and local government officers who he says shared in the Romero ransom. Not even Malacañang, which may be embarrassed by his disclosures, true or not, can take official action against him.

The only thing he has to guard against is the Senate itself, which can discipline him for his recklessness if he is unable or unwilling to substantiate his accusations. That is what happened to his father, Sergio Osmeña Jr., when he was suspended for the rest of his term (and in effect expelled) for insinuating that then President Carlos P. Garcia had "two million reasons for supporting the Margin Bill."

Note that the Constitution says the lawmaker may not be questioned "in any *other* place," meaning any place other than Congress. The implication is that he may be questioned in the Senate or the House of Representatives itself and, if warranted, punished under its power to discipline its members for "disorderly behavior." Sergio Osmeña III need not fear being suspended or expelled, however, because his erstwhile allies in the majority do not have the necessary two-thirds vote.

You are the weakest link

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

I WAS putting on my vestments in preparation for a funeral Mass when a little girl of 5 or 6, who had been closely observing me, candidly asked in a loud voice for all to hear: "Are you going to change to a priest?"

Everybody smiled, of course, including me, but her innocent question really hit me. I wanted to tell her right there and then that I am a priest, with or without my priestly vestments, and that priesthood is not something you put on. But all that would have been jargon for her young mind. So I just smiled at her and tapped her head, but deep inside, I knew the Lord had spoken through the mouth of this babe.

The Gospel today (Mt. 3,1-12) speaks about change and true conversion. John the Baptist is speaking about repentance, preparing the way of the Lord, and making straight His paths. True repentance is not what we put on during the Advent and Christmas seasons. He is not talking about spiritual decorations and trimmings. Nor is he just speaking of "feel good" and "feel clean" moments on our spiritual life. John the Baptist is talking of real repentance that leads to true conversion, which in turn produces good fruits.

* * *

I was talking with a 26-year compulsive gambler this week. He had caused so much pain to his family, and deep inside he felt empty. He showed remorse and a real decision to change. After our talk everything was straightened, or so it seemed—until we said goodbye. His parting words were, "I'll change from now on, Father. Wanna bet?"

* * *

True conversion begins with a humble and contrite heart that accepts its weakness. It is a heart that says, "I am a sinner. I am wrong. I need God. I cannot do it alone." Unless and until a heart accepts, and as long as a heart denies, there can be no real conversion, be it from alcohol, drugs, lust, food, gambling, etc. You must first be aware and accept what your personal Waterloo is.

* * *

Acceptance of one's weakness should lead to vigilance. Know yourself and no yourself! Be on your guard and know your parameters. Avoid the occasions, the places, faces and messes that lead you to fall. It is better to underestimate oneself when it comes to temptation. Yes, better to be a coward who flees than to be a courageous soul who falls.

* * *

More than discipline, more than vigilance, prayer—lots of prayer—is the best defense against temptation. A soul that prays is strong within. When temptation comes knocking, pray and flee.

The problem with many of us is that we don't pray anymore. We shut out the Lord when we need Him most. Remember, in any temptation situation, you are the weakest link. So pray! Otherwise, goodbye!

* * *

Next Sunday, Dec. 16, we begin the Misa de Gallo, nine days of dawn Masses in preparation for Christmas. It is a sacrifice to wake up early, but it is one beautiful way of welcoming Jesus in our hearts and in our homes this Christmas. It is such an inspiring sight to see people, young and old, rich and poor still believing in the true spirit of Christmas.

* * *

Take note: The Pope has announced Dec. 14 as a day of prayers and fasting for world peace. It is also a beautiful Advent offering for our Lord's birthday. On that day too, with great joy we, the SVDs (Society of the Divine Word), will offer to the Lord young men who will be ordained at 9 a.m. at the Divine Word Seminary in Tagaytay. Many of them will go on foreign missions.

* * *

Dec. 16 is also National Youth Day, a fitting reminder for all of us to make Christmas beautiful and meaningful for the youth and the children

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, when I am tempted I am the weakest link, so help me to pray and flee. Amen

Empowering the OFWs

COMMENTARY

Vice President
Teofisto Guingona Jr.

THERE are almost 8 million overseas Filipino workers. And a Filipino abroad, no matter how many years he lives there, whether or not he acquires permanent residency in a foreign land, remains a Filipino. He longs for Filipino food like *sinigang* and chicken *adobo*. He often strums the guitar or sings an old *kundiman*. He looks forward to the day when he can return or retire in the land of his birth among relatives and friends and loved ones.

The government is concerned about his welfare. The Department of Foreign Affairs has an agreement with the International Labor Organization to craft the necessary modules for Filipinos abroad so that those who wish to improve their skills and their status can do so through distance education.

For example, we have more than 200,000 seamen in the merchant marine all over the globe. Japanese ships, Norweigan vessels, name it, and most probably Filipinos make up a portion of the crew. Through distance learning, after passing the required examination, the ordinary Filipino seaman can become a radio operator or officer of the vessel.

The same is true of domestics. Many of them are high school graduates, and some are even teachers. They can, right where they are working, improve their lot through distance learning. They can become nursing aides or nurses or secretaries and thereby earn bigger compensation and have better prospects. A mechanic can become a technician or engineer. A lot depends on the person, but we give him the opportunity to grow.

The second part of empowerment is to guide our workers abroad to use their earnings prudently. Many want to save. Most want to accumulate savings for retirement.

At the instance of the DFA, the Department of Finance will issue Overseas Filipino Investor Bonds with a minimum placement of $100. This is guaranteed by the government, with assured return of principal and interest, even before the expiry of the three-year life of the bond. It carries other benefits: health care, death insurance and a prize of at least $10,000 to the worker who wins a weekly lottery.

We are already empowering the OFWs politically by allowing absentee voting as embodied in bills pending in the House and Senate.

We should add economic and social opportunities for them. For the true treasure of a nation is not the gold beneath the land or the marine products in the seas, the true wealth of a nation lies in the hearts and minds of the men and women who make up the nation.

The plight of the OFWs is only temporary. Other nations have had similar migrants but eventually they overcame the challenges. Take China. She is now an economic giant, her people are prosperous, with justifiable pride in her continuous advances forward. Yet at the turn of the 20th century, China was ravaged by poverty. The land was exploited by Western powers like England, Germany and the United States through unjust treaties virtually imposed upon her. They divided China like a watermelon among themselves. And the Chinese was derided as a lowly coolie fit only to be "a hewer of wood and carrier of water." The Westerners became rich but the Chinese became poor and many were forced to migrate.

In the face of abject poverty, more than 30 million Chinese left their homeland to seek a better life outside. They went to many places around the globe, mainly nearby Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines.

In the early years until the Commonwealth period, many of them came: women in clod feet to become domestics or amahs in Filipino residences and men who earned a living from such humble trades as selling bottles or old newspapers. But by dint of hard work and extraordinary perseverance, they rose from the dregs of poverty to prosperity—even to become tycoons who now are recognized leaders of trade and industry. They have redeemed themselves and a number of them—not only from the Philippines but from all the places where the 30 million Chinese migrated—have invested money back in China where not only investments have been welcome, but more enthusiastically, the men and women themselves who nostalgically trace their roots to the giant nation.

If China can do it, so can the Philippines and the Filipino.

He may not have known it, but Jose Rizal was the early forerunner of the OFW. He labored in Hong Kong as an eye doctor. So did men in Spain like Graciano Lopez Jaena and Marcelo H. del Pilar.

Today's OFWs are rightly regarded with respect by many employers, including the dedicated Filipino nurses whose main concern is the patient's quick recovery, treating them with tender care. They are welcomed and much sought after in many places. They are our ambassadors of goodwill.

Let us therefore help the OFWs even as they help the nation. *Bayanihan*!

A 'hip and cool' condom brand

AT LARGE

Rina
Jimenez-David

THEY'RE young, carefree, armed with progressive and liberal ideas about love, relationships and sex. While not all may have much disposable income, young adults, age 18 to 24, are considered a desirable market as they are avid consumers who influence their parents' spending habits.

They are the target market for a new brand of condoms launched recently by DKT International, marketers of the "Trust" brand of condoms which, after 10 years in the country, is now the local market leader.

The new condom brand is called "Frenzy," which explains its advertising's teasing tag line.

Set in what sounds like a rock concert, the ad opens with the reverberations of rock music and screams of female fans, after which someone shouts: "Do you wanna heart the F word?!" The teaser is right on target, appealing to young people who enjoy irreverence, thumbing their noses at convention, and shocking their elders.

But while young adults claim to know more about sex than older people ever imagined, "that doesn't mean they know any better," as DKT puts it. According to studies by the Alan Guttmacher Institute, the mean average of sexual initiation in the Philippines is 17 for both men and women, "well under the conventional marrying age somewhere in the late 20s." This can only mean that more and more young people are engaging in premarital sex, and often with disastrous and untimely consequences.

Another study, by the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society, indicates a growing annual rate of teenage pregnancies and pre-natal deaths due to abortion. "More and more teens are forced to decide on very adult issues like keeping or terminating pregnancies, quitting school, living-in together and marrying despite their poor emotional well-being and financial shortcomings. They face their family's anger and bear the shame of society's prejudice."

* * *

THEN there's the threat of HIV and AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections. Young Filipino men are judged particularly at risk, reporting an active sex life while engaging in risky sexual behavior, such as having multiple partners and indulging in unprotected sex.

There are many possible approaches to communicate to young people the risks and responsibilities of sex. One is to shame them, with earnest lectures on virtue, purity and social expectations. Another is to frighten them, or at least shake them out of their complacency with information on sexually transmitted infections including AIDS, anecdotes about single parents, or threats of cutting off their allowance and letting them fend on their own. Yet another possibility is to provide them with all the information you think they will need, hoping that when crunch time comes, they will know what to do.

Or, as DKT's Benny Llapitan points out, "you can try reaching them in ways they enjoy and in places where they are."

Thus, the "F word" teaser ad and Frenzy outlets in both traditional spots like supermarkets and drug stores, as well as hangouts like record bars, fashion boutiques and the bars along Libis, Malate and other meccas of the young.

* * *

"FRENZY" latex condoms come in strips of four that cost P10, or boxes of 12, also called party packs, that retail for P25 each. Made in Malaysia (which supplies the majority of the world's supply of latex condoms), "Frenzy" comes in three different colors and flavors: green mint, yellow banana and orange.

"It is a condom that exudes a young, energetic, hip and fun personality," says DKT. Which means, I guess, eschewing negative messages or "*pa*-guilty" effects in favor of creating an image of a condom that is both a status symbol and a fun device. From what I gather, it seems that "Frenzy" marketers hope that young people will want to have a "Frenzy" on hand when they need it not just because it's the safe thing to do, but also because they want to be seen as cool and with-it.

Look for "Frenzy," then, with its multi-colored "bull's-eye" logo with the inverted "e," in the hottest places in town, though not, one would hope, in the jeans pocket of a young man out on the prowl. (He'd be better off, and safer, buying a new pack when the need arises. No pun intended!)

* * *

I WAS at a forum recently on the images of gays in the media. Natty Manauat, a lesbian activist who teaches at the University of the Philippines, raised an interesting question with regard to what she called the "invisibility" of lesbians in the media: What would the first local ad featuring a lesbian be like?

Well, it seems that the audience, composed mostly of members of various gay organizations and activist groups, had no lack of creativity among them. As soon as the open forum began, someone volunteered to "visualize" that ad: A "very butch" woman, in stereotyped garb of leather jacket, boots and black jeans, staring into the camera and declaring: "Me, I prefer napkins with wings."

Everyone had a good laugh, imagining, perhaps, the startling contrast between the image and the message. As the lesbian speaker remarked: "Yes, I guess it's hard for the public to realize that lesbians have monthly periods, too."

As indeed it took time for the local women's movement to acknowledge that lesbian issues were women's issues, too, and that gay men's issues were gender issues, too. But, having fought, with a measure of success, for reproductive health and rights, the women's movement is moving on sexual health and rights, of which sexual orientation is necessarily part and parcel.

Danton Remoto, writer and editor (with J. Neil Garcia) of landmark anthologies of gay writing, remarked on the "bittersweet" relationship between gays and the media. While the media seem to revel in gays, featuring gay characters in ads, sitcoms, even dramas, they seem comfortable only with harmless stereotypes, and are uncomfortable about presenting gays in all their diversity. And diversity is what local feminists, too, need to realize about their community.

Growing up with Julia

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy
David

SHE turns one year old today, a child who first saw light as the Filipino nation began one of its darkest moments: the impeachment of a sitting president. I constantly thought of her during those days when everything seemed uncertain, when the routines of our lives were replaced by the swirl of daily demonstrations. I would plant a kiss on her forehead each time I set off for a protest march, whispering this was for her.

Politics suddenly acquired a meaning for me that I had not previously known. I stopped observing and became a fully engaged participant. I was fighting for a world in which my granddaughter and everyone else of her generation could have a future.

That shift in perception made all the difference. I shed off my intellectual pessimism and learned to hope again. Ralph Waldo Emerson was right: "Nature does not like to be observed, and likes that we should be her fools and playmates."

Julia has grown, and so have we changed. A few weeks after she was born, we booted out a president who failed the nation and welcomed a successor who promised the world.

New faces, old mind-set. It didn't take long before our hopes would be dashed by the realities of political life. We should have known better than to think that whenever we needed them, we would be blessed with heroes who could rise to a vision rather than politicians forever lusting after power.

I can't say the country is better today. But we are hopefully wiser; we demand more from our leaders. We also expect more from ourselves. We do not hesitate to act on our dreams. "Dream delivers us to dream, and there is no end to illusion," says Emerson. "Life is a train of moods, like a string of beads, and, as we pass through them, they prove to be many-colored lenses which paint the world their own hue, and each shows only what lies in its focus. From the mountain you see the mountain. We animate what we can, and we see only what we animate."

These days, when I am with Julia, I see the world mostly through non-political lenses. I sit by the pond with her, watching the lotus flowers open and close through many daybreaks and sunsets. The color I see is not the color of political strife but the serenest pink of radiant lotuses. She has sharp eyes and she points to me the tiny snails feeding upon the leaves that float on the surface of the pond. Momentarily, she hears the chirping of the *pipit*, looks up and scans the branches of the mango tree. Then her tiny finger goes up and calls my attention to her discovery. Nature indeed belongs to the eyes that see them.

I come home for lunch every day so I would catch her just before she takes her afternoon nap. She waits until I am finished and then, as she sits on my lap, with knowing eyes she begins a game that has become a ritual for both of us. She dips a hand into my drinking glass to feel the residual frost of the melting ice. Her eyes grow big as she ponders the sensation of icy heat. When she is done, she warms her fingers on my face, and I return the benediction by sprinkling her eyes with the remaining water.

She started to walk at 11 months. One day, she pulled herself up from a squatting position, steadied her legs and carefully centered her body. Then, with a smile in her eyes, she took her first steps and plunged into her mother's arms. She knew at once that she had achieved something. She repeated the same feat several times, rushing her stride as she came near a pair of waiting hands. Trust, I realized, is the first thing a human being calls upon as she makes her way into the world on her own feet.

I know I have changed as much as my granddaughter has grown during this past year. Like her, I am slowly overcoming the fears that have crept into my life over the years. In July, I reclaimed a youthful passion that I had given up when my children were growing up: motorcycling. I welcomed the opening of the expressways to big bikes, and celebrated the event by selling my car and getting myself the same motorcycle I had known as a young man, a Ducati.

The Monster S-4 is a very fast high-performance bike, but I am not a speed freak. I love going on quiet rides that take me to the mountains where I can watch birds. But most of all, I like the sensation of the synergy between the human body locked in its own survival habits and a smart machine bent on its own logic. Riding a bike is to me what walking is to Julia: a conquest of fear and an exercise in self-knowledge.

My friends say I have the most incongruous life. I visit bird sanctuaries on Mt. Makiling and in Bataan on a racing motorcycle. I devour motorcycle magazines as much as I enjoy reading good books in philosophy. On most afternoons, I would walk little Julia in her stroller around the UP campus where we live, and later in the evening, I would slip into my padded jacket and take my Ducati for a spin. These events are the circles of my life; I do not apologize or offer any justification for any of them.

I take to heart what Emerson says of life: "Our life is an apprenticeship to the truth that around every circle another can be drawn; that there is no end in nature, but every end is a beginning; that there is always another dawn risen on midnoon, and under every deep a lower deep opens."

'Revolutionary' tourism in Cuba

FEATURE

Andrew Cawthrone

SIERRA MAESTRA, Cuba—Nowhere is the romance of the 1959 Cuban Revolution better encapsulated than in the rugged Sierra Maestra mountains which young rebel leader Fidel Castro and his bearded followers made their hideout. Virtually unchanged since those heady days, the Sierra Maestra's remote slopes and forests, enclosing Cuba's best wildlife, are today obligatory trekking ground for visitors eager to explore the island's political heritage.

The most hallowed turf for Castro sympathizers is "Comandancia La Plata," a few camouflaged huts and shelters on a barely accessible hillside where he kept his military headquarters hidden from the army of dictator Fulgencio Batista. On a recent trip, visitors were allowed into the hut where Castro lived, even sitting on his large bed next to a window overlooking the surrounding undergrowth. Adding a touch of authenticity, a 1950s American refrigerator stands in the main room with a bullet hole where it was hit by enemy fire as it was being carried up the mountains to the "Commandante's" hut.

Visitors, who hike up to La Plata along a windy path with stunning views, can also see the trap door through which Castro would have escaped had Batista's men found him. Close by stands the table used by another revolutionary heroine, Celia Sanchez, a close companion of Castro until her death in 1980, to take down his orders and letters, and screen visitors.

Elsewhere in La Plata is a hut called "The Press House" where the always image-conscious Castro would receive rebel-escorted journalists for crucial interviews to prove he was alive and well after the Batista-controlled media said he was dead.

"One time a journalist came who aroused Fidel's suspicions, so when he left he ordered the hut covered with leaves and branches," a guide said. "Sure enough, he was a spy and the next day a plane came over looking for the rebels, but thanks to Fidel's precautions, they couldn't find them."

Although views on Castro and the communist path later taken by his revolution differ widely now, his two-year guerrilla war and triumph on Jan. 1, 1959 initially captured the imagination of many around the world and won strong support in Cuba.

Having been attacked while landing at Cuba's southeastern coast on Dec. 2, 1956, survivors of Castro's 82-member invasion force took immediately to the Sierra Maestra with only five guns between them, according to their version. But after escaping a manhunt and ensconcing themselves in the mountains, the rebels built up close relationships with local peasant farmers and their numbers slowly grew to about 300.

"One got a feeling he is now invincible," wrote Herbert Matthews of the New York Times whose exclusive reports after a visit to the Sierra played an important part in the romantic aura surrounding Castro's fledgling army.

Stealing weapons from Batista troops during a series of skirmishes around the region, the rebel army gradually became better equipped. Even as late as May 1958, though, Batista thought he could rid himself of the troublesome rebels with a massive offensive of 10,000 soldiers encircling the mountains. But after that failed, the balance turned. With army morale low, popular sentiment in favor of Castro, and urban support increasingly effective, the rebels advanced across the country and Batista fled to the Dominican Republic on New Year's Day.

Visitors wanting to hear how it all happened would do well to stop off at Santo Domingo, a village on the northern side of the Sierra Maestra, a few miles down from La Plata. There, the now elderly musicians from the "Quinteto Rebelde (Rebel Quintet)," a band that played on Castro's clandestine "Radio Rebelde," offer one of the liveliest first-hand accounts of the Sierra Maestra war.

The group accompanied the rebels in the mountains, writing special songs to satirize the enemy like "Go away, monkey!" and others to extol Castro, Argentine-born guerrilla Ernesto "Che" Guevara and the rest of the guerrillas like "Let's protect Fidel," "I'm a Fidelista" or "Respect 'Che' Guevara."

"We encouraged the rebels and demoralized Batista's army…creating allegoric songs offending the tyrant's soldiers," said singer and guitar player Alejandro Medina Muñoz, 62.

Those songs, and other Radio Rebelde news bulletins and propaganda, played a crucial part in the conflict, as the station was heard across Cuba and as far away as Venezuela and Central America due to its high position on the mountains.

Hidden in a tunnel, the Radio Rebelde equipment was sometimes taken out for use in battle, with music and slogans blaring out as the rebels attacked the Batista soldiers.

"Imagine what it's like during combat to hear music come back at you as you fire shots?" Medina said. "Many of them, when we took them prisoner, said they couldn't tell where they were—at home, in a party or whatever!"

Medina, one of 10 children of a peasant farmer in the Sierra, and four other members, have now regrouped the Quinteto Rebelde to play for tourists at a small hotel in Santo Domingo.

The most hardy tourists, and many young Cubans on a ritual political pilgrimage encouraged by authorities seeking to imbue them with revolutionary spirit, make the tough, two-day hike up the Sierra's and Cuba's highest peak, Pico Turquino, which rises about 6,000 feet.

There, Castro was caught in a famous black-and-white picture of the era holding a rifle as he stood imperiously looking over the country he was about to conquer—and still rules nearly 43 years later.

Although the Sierra Maestra is gradually opening up for tourism, gaining permission to climb Turquino, and visit La Plata, is still sometimes difficult due to official sensibilities and renovation work to trails and installations.

Organizational lapses should be expected, too. This reporter spent a night on the floor halfway up to Turquino after bedding supposed to be brought up by mules never arrived.

At the bottom of the Sierra Maestra lies what Cuba's government calls the "Heroic City" of Santiago de Cuba, the island's second largest city, the first major center occupied by the rebels, and also the scene of Castro's first armed action with a failed 1953 attack on an army garrison.

Santiago de Cuba is also a must on the revolutionary tourism trail, particularly the Moncada Barracks, which is now a museum and school. About half of the assailants were caught, tortured and executed by the army after Castro's disastrous attempt to besiege the garrison on July 26, 1953, with a motley collection of old cars and hunting guns.

In the first of many strokes of luck, Castro survived after being caught by a sympathetic army officer who disobeyed secret orders to kill him and took him to jail instead.

Both Moncada, and "La Granjita de Siboney (The Little Farmhouse in Siboney)" from where the rebels set out, are now political shrines in Cuba's revolutionary heartland.

At the Granjita, visitors can see the well where Castro's band hid their weapons and the chicken-roosts where they kept the cars. Back in Santiago, another obligatory stop is the balcony where Castro addressed the masses on his entry into the city after the triumph of the revolution.

Forty years later, on Jan. 1, 1999, Castro was back on the same balcony reminding the world that the man who led the most famous guerrilla war in 20th century Latin America was still going strong on the eve of the 21st century.

"What Fidel did should never be forgotten. It's good for everyone to see all this and remember," said a former member of his army in the Sierra, Rolando Salas, who is now driving tourists round the area in a 1957 Chevrolet.

Reuters

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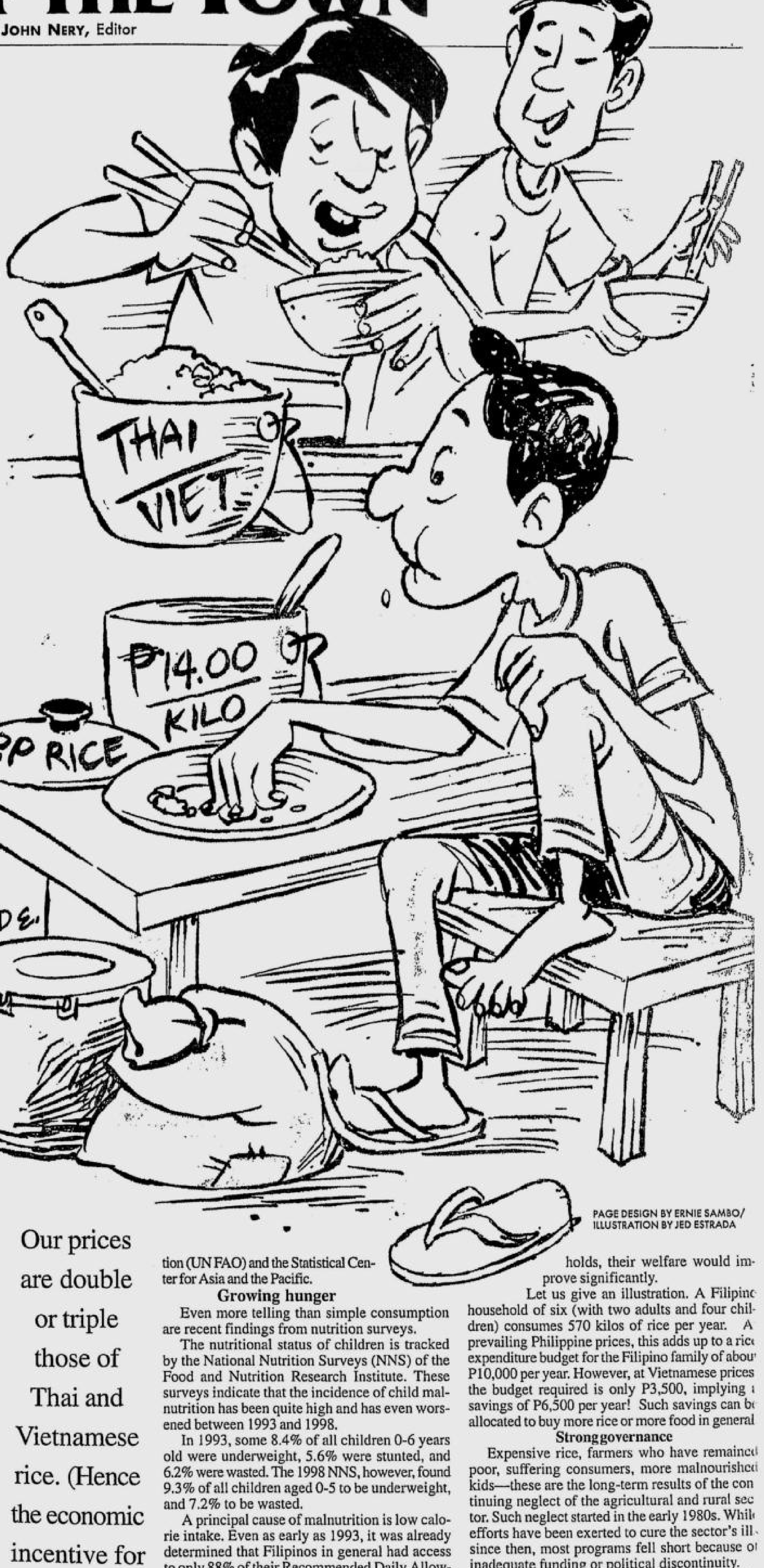
TALK OF THE TOWN

Join the discussion. E-mail us at talk@inquirer.com.ph
JOHN NERY, Editor

Why is rice so expensive?

THE MYTH that Filipinos eat too much rice is just that—a myth. Our neighbors consume more rice than we do. But even though government-subsidized rice is available, the poor do not necessarily have the means to buy even at discounted rates. The damning proof: even NFA rice sometimes goes unsold.

What is happening here? In the first of our occasional series on under-reported stories, two agriculture experts separate the grain from the chaff.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A steadily widening gap

UNDER-REPORTED STORIES

BY V. BRUCE J. TOLENTINO, PH.D.
Consultant to the Department of Agriculture
AND ELCEE O. NOVENO
DA Research Associate

FILIPINO consumers suffer rice prices that are double to triple those borne by Thai or Vietnamese households.

Similarly, Filipino rice farmers incur, on the average, costs of production double to triple those of Thai or Vietnamese farmers.

The gap in consumer price and producer cost between the Philippines on the high side, and Thailand and Vietnam on the low side, has been widening since the mid-1980s. And it looks like Filipino households and farmers will continue to be disadvantaged in price and cost into the foreseeable future.

This is especially true given current policies and programs in the Philippine rice sector, current and anticipated levels of agricultural productivity, and the inherent cycles of agricultural production.

Current prices

In the first week of August, the retail price of regular-milled rice in the major Manila wet markets was P16.73 per kilo. In peso terms, for the same quality of rice, Vietnamese households pay only P6.06 per kilo, while Thai households pay P7.64 per kilo.

The cheapest rice in the Philippine market is regular-milled rice sold at P14.00 per kilo by the National Food Authority in its "rolling stores." Yet in the most economically depressed areas, the NFA's stocks are not fully sold, indicating that even P14.00 is expensive to the very poor!

Now, the NFA has resorted to selling rice in half-kilo bags because the very poor can hardly cough up the P14.00 in cash they need to purchase rice a kilo at a time.

Recent survey data show that, on the average, it costs Filipino farmers P7.45 to produce a kilo of paddy (unhusked rice). In comparison, as of the mid-1990s, Filipino farmers spent P5.71 to produce a kilo of paddy while Vietnamese farmers spent only P2.33 and Thai farmers P4.30 per kilo.

In rice prices and costs of production, the gap between the Philippines on the one hand and Vietnam and Thailand on the other has grown worse over time.

Prior to the mid-1980s, the gap was minimal and stable. Since then the gap has gradually but steadily widened

Rice smuggling

Since Philippine prices of rice are so much higher than Thai or Vietnamese prices, the incentive to bring rice into the Philippine market is very powerful. By law, only the NFA may import rice, or license such imports, into the country. Yet by anecdotal evidence and media accounts the smuggling of rice is rampant, in particular because of spotty enforcement of import restrictions by enforcement institutions and because of the archipelagic lay of the land.

Price differentials are the root cause of smuggling. It is particularly profitable to smuggle rice into the country, despite the risks of being caught and penalized. There is little scope for improving enforcement, given the weakness of the enforcement mechanisms and institutions and the fact that authorities have other concerns to worry about—such as the Abu Sayyaf.

In fact, the recently re-imposed requirement to secure NFA permits for domestic, inter-island shipping only creates more opportunities for rent-seeking and corruption, since the root cause has not been addressed. The re-imposition's positive effects on smuggling, however, are doubtful at best.

Household budgets

Eighty percent of Filipino households devote at least half of their expenses to food. Rice is the staple food item of most households and takes up about a quarter of household food budgets.

Any increase in the price of rice, therefore, is tantamount to a decrease in household income and wages.

Furthermore, since food prices are an important component of the administrative wage-setting process in the Philippines, the upward trends in rice prices have exacerbated labor unrest and added pressure for legislated wage increases.

Rice farmers and their families are also disadvantaged from high rice prices. Rice farmers sell most of their rice produce at harvest time. They generally need the cash and do not have enough storage space to store rice for consumption the rest of the year.

Recent surveys of the Social Weather Stations indicate that 85 percent of all Filipinos, and 78% of all rural households, source their household rice from the open market. This indicates that the proportion of all households benefiting from rice sold at subsidized prices by the National Food Authority (relative to domestic prices) is a small minority of the total population.

An anecdote often related as gospel truth about the dietary preferences of Filipinos—especially of the so-called "masses"—is that a common Filipino meal consists of a "mountain" of rice, flavored by a bit of soup or viand. This observation then leads to a conclusion that "Filipinos eat too much rice." A further conclusion is then hazarded: "If only Filipinos ate less rice, then we won't have to worry about imports!"

Yet cross-country evidence shows that on the contrary, Filipinos eat too little rice!

Per capita

Comparative data on a number of Asian countries show that Filipinos consume 95 kilos of rice per capita per year. This comes to about 260 grams of milled rice—or about three cups of milled rice per day—or a cup of milled rice per meal.

In sharp contrast, the Vietnamese consume up to 165 kilos of rice per capita per year, and the citizens of Burma eat as much as 213 kilos of rice per capita per year!

Statistics on rice consumption are numbers many Filipinos find difficult to accept. It seems that the anecdote on the rice-gorging Filipino is an enduring story.

Yet the statistics are clear. These statistics were gathered from official government sources. The methods in gathering the data and estimating rice consumption are consistent with techniques introduced across Asia by the Food and Agricultural Organization (UN FAO) and the Statistical Center for Asia and the Pacific.

Growing hunger

Even more telling than simple consumption are recent findings from nutrition surveys.

The nutritional status of children is tracked by the National Nutrition Surveys (NNS) of the Food and Nutrition Research Institute. These surveys indicate that the incidence of child malnutrition has been quite high and has even worsened between 1993 and 1998.

In 1993, some 8.4% of all children 0-6 years old were underweight, 5.6% were stunted, and 6.2% were wasted. The 1998 NNS, however, found 9.3% of all children aged 0-5 to be underweight, and 7.2% to be wasted.

A principal cause of malnutrition is low calorie intake. Even as early as 1993, it was already determined that Filipinos in general had access to only 88% of their Recommended Daily Allowance (RDA) in caloric intake.

The basic source of calories in the Filipino diet is rice, and thus low calorie intake is associated with low rice consumption. In the last 10 years, domestic rice retail prices have increased relatively rapidly, undoubtedly leading to reduced consumption, especially among the less-able family members.

Without doubt, the high price of rice has contributed to low levels of rice consumption and consequently a worsening of nutritional status—especially among the very young.

Welfare losses

A distinguishing feature of the contemporary Thai and Vietnamese cost of living is very cheap food—relative to the Philippines. This has become increasingly evident since the 1980s, as Vietnam and Thailand adopted market-oriented economic policies and invested heavily in their agriculture and rural sectors.

If Filipino households had access to rice at the same prices as Vietnamese or Thai households, their welfare would improve significantly.

Let us give an illustration. A Filipin household of six (with two adults and four children) consumes 570 kilos of rice per year. A prevailing Philippine prices, this adds up to a ric expenditure budget for the Filipino family of abou P10,000 per year. However, at Vietnamese prices the budget required is only P3,500, implying savings of P6,500 per year! Such savings can b allocated to buy more rice or more food in general

Strong governance

Expensive rice, farmers who have remaine poor, suffering consumers, more malnourishe kids—these are the long-term results of the continuing neglect of the agricultural and rural sector. Such neglect started in the early 1980s. Whil efforts have been exerted to cure the sector's ill since then, most programs fell short because o inadequate funding or political discontinuity.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo is on th right track as she restores the focus on the revitalization of the Department of Agriculture an the other rural and agricultural sector agencies t resolve festering poverty and revitalize economi growth.

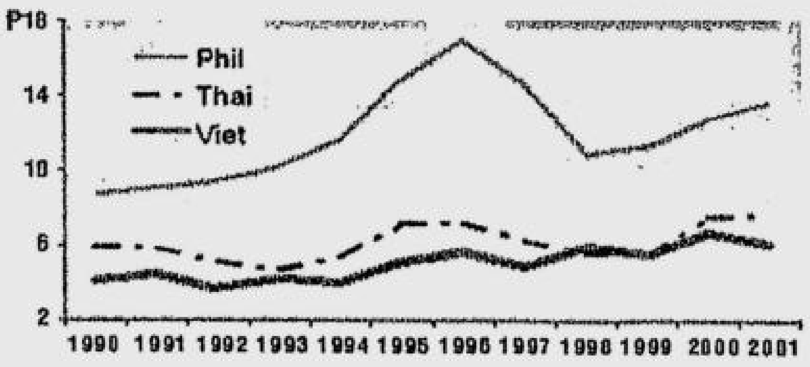
The President's call for "*murang bigas*" (inexpensive rice) in her first State of the Nation Address is even more on target.

Undoubtedly, government policies on ric prices, productivity and trade have major implications on poverty. We must start learning all ove again that rice is a concern not only of farmers an the DA and the NFA, but of consumers, worker and employers too, and of society as a whole.

Tolentino was DA Undersecretary for Polic and Planning from 1987 to 1992. A slightl revised version of this article first appeared i a journal of the Philippine Institute for Development Studies.

> Our prices are double or triple those of Thai and Vietnamese rice. (Hence the economic incentive for smuggling.) And we eat less rice than they do. (Hence the growing nutrition gap.)

A mountain of rice



SOURCE: 1992 - 1999, FAO

Talking points

LAST week's call for contributors met a resounding echo. (The deadline for sending e-mail requests for guidelines is next Sunday, Dec. 16.) This week's piece is the first of solicited articles on important but under-reported stories, seen from the reader's perspective. Or, in the case, readers. Authors Tolentino and Noveno tackle a gut issue, quite literally.

Rice smuggling is old news, even for on-again, off-again administration senators from Cebu. But the economics of rice, which result in the pathology of malnutrition? This is truly an under-reported issue.

One measure of public ignorance or media apathy is the information-resistant piece of conventional wisdom which the authors reminds us of, the mountain-of-rice myth. "This observation [that Filipinos eat a mountain of rice and a molehill of viands] then leads to a conclusion that 'Filipinos eat too much rice,'" they write. "A further conclusion is then hazarded: 'If only Filipinos ate less rice, then we won't have to worry about import!'"

In point of fact, Filipinos east considerably less rice (at 95 kilos per person per year) than the Thai (109), the Vietnamese (165), the Laotian (172, or the Burmese (213).

This must be partly because the price of rice in the Philippines is much higher than in out neighboring countries.

One staggering implication: a widening nutrition gap, pulled on the one side by high prices and on the other by lower rice consumption. (It makes sense, doesn't it? Given high prices, the same amount of money buys less rice. Lower prices mean more savings or more choices in food.)

"The basic source of calories in the Filipino diet is rice, and thus low calorie intake is associated with low rice consumption. In the last 10 years, domestic rice retail prices have increased relatively rapidly, undoubtedly leading to reduced consumption, especially among the less-able family members."

On the basic, did-they-meet-the-minimum-requirement level, Tolentino and Noveno certainly make their case that this rosary of issues has not been worried enough in public discussion.

What makes their presentatio compelling, however, is the unhurried and masterly stringing togethe of occasional headline stories (hig rice prices, rice smuggling, malnutrition, technical policy issues) into on inter-connected but indifferently covered issue. The result is an explanation as deep as the rice cost-pric differential is wide.—*J. Nery*

The WORLD

Luverne B. Gueco, Editor

UK or Germany could lead Afghan force, says Powell

TASHKENT—Britain and Germany have expressed interest in leading a multinational military force to help keep the peace after the war in Afghanistan, US Secretary of State Colin Powell said on Saturday.

Powell said talks were continuing about the make-up and command of the security force and that there were a number of potential candidates to lead it, but added: "(German) Chancellor (Gerhard) Schroeder earlier had expressed an interest in it and there's been some British interest in it.

"They are the only two I can think of," he told reporters aboard his plane en route from a Nato meeting in Brussels to the Uzbek capital Tashkent during a 10-nation tour.

"It would be desirable if this thing was starting to move at the time the government set up on Dec. 22," Powell added. "I just don't know if it'll go that fast."

Powell discussed the force at Nato headquarters in Brussels this week with participants in meetings attended by 19 alliance members, Nato hopefuls and officials from Russia and Ukraine.

He said he had also spoken to US Ambassador to the United Nations John Negroponte late on Thursday about work in New York on a UN resolution paving the way for the security force.

The 15-member UN Security Council on Thursday unanimously endorsed an agreement among Afghan anti-Taliban factions to form the interim government.

But it put off mandating the multinational force until at least next week. The force would not be a formal, UN-run outfit but a coalition of willing participants.

"There's a lot of discussion about mission, lead, size, connection to the UN, connection to the interim administration," Powell said.

He said the countries involved would have to discuss who would be leader among themselves.

Countries mentioned as possible participants have included Britain, Germany, France, Canada, Turkey and possibly Jordan. *Reuters*

REUTERS

GUATEMALANS set fire to a four meter-tall effigy of Osama bin Laden during a traditional annual devil-burning festival in Guatemala City, Dec. 7.

Taliban 'army' scatters; Omar, Bin Laden still elusive

KABUL—Taliban fighters scattered into the countryside from their fallen capital Kandahar on Saturday but the whereabouts of their leader Mullah Mohammad Omar remained a mystery.

As tribal warlords fought over the spoils of victory in the militia's spiritual and ethnic heartland, the reclusive and secretive founder of the radical Islamic movement was nowhere to be found.

But in the east, US-backed Afghan militias were closing in on Arab fanatics loyal to Osama bin Laden, the Saudi-born Islamic militant accused of plotting the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

The collapse of the hardline regime opened a possibly more dangerous phase of the US-led war, as Taliban fighters melted into the countryside around Kandahar with their weapons, and perhaps their leader.

Hundreds of armed Taliban were seen leaving the city Friday, under a "surrender" negotiated with Hamid Karzai, a Pashtun tribal leader and the head of the new UN-backed interim Cabinet.

But the situation remained tense, as former provincial governor Gul Agha's men claimed to have surrounded forces loyal to commander Mullah Naqibullah, who was appointed provincial chief after the Taliban withrawal.

Agha's spokesperson Jalal Khan, speaking via satellite phone from the Kandahar governor's mansion where Agha had taken up residence, said Omar may be still hiding in Kandahar under Naqibullah's or Karzai's protection.

"Mullah Mohammad Omar is a criminal and the main culprit. Whether he is with Hamid Karzai or Mullah Naqib our men are chasing him and they will track him down along with his close aides," said Khan.

Agha's forces fought their way to the edge of Kandahar before the Taliban agreed to a peace deal with Karzai on Thursday.

He is furious that he was not consulted on the terms of the deal and that the governorship had been awarded to Naqibullah and other commanders who had not sent their forces to fight the Taliban.

Naqibullah was accused of allowing former Taliban officials into the leadership council, which was supposed to rule the city following the withdrawal of the Taliban on Friday.

The Pentagon celebrated the "surrender" of Kandahar but warned the war would not be won until Omar and his ally Bin Laden were brought to heel.

US commander Gen. Tommy Franks hinted Omar was believed to be in the area of the southern city and marines were actively cutting off escape routes in cooperation with Afghan tribal militias.

But he admitted that he could not put his finger on Omar's exact location.

"We're tightening the noose, but the way ahead has been correctly described as one where (we) find a dirty environment and a very dangerous environment," said Franks.

"There remain pockets of al-Qaida and very dedicated Taliban fighters in Afghanistan. The country is not yet stable. And we still have an awful lot of work to do."

The US general said he was not sure exactly what was happening in Kandahar, and likened the situation to the surrenders of the northern cities of Mazar-i-Sharif and Kunduz—where hundreds of Taliban died in a bloody prison uprising and pockets of diehard resistance remain.

"We have seen the surrender of a great many Taliban forces inside Kandahar," he said.

"We do not yet have a sense of comfort that there is stability in the city, and I don't expect that we will have a sense of comfort for, perhaps, two or three days, until we get a valid assessment of exactly what is going on in Kandahar."

Kandahar's streets were generally silent and all shops were closed. Residents were staying indoors, frightened to go outside, even though the last Taliban soldiers had disappeared by Friday afternoon. *AFP*

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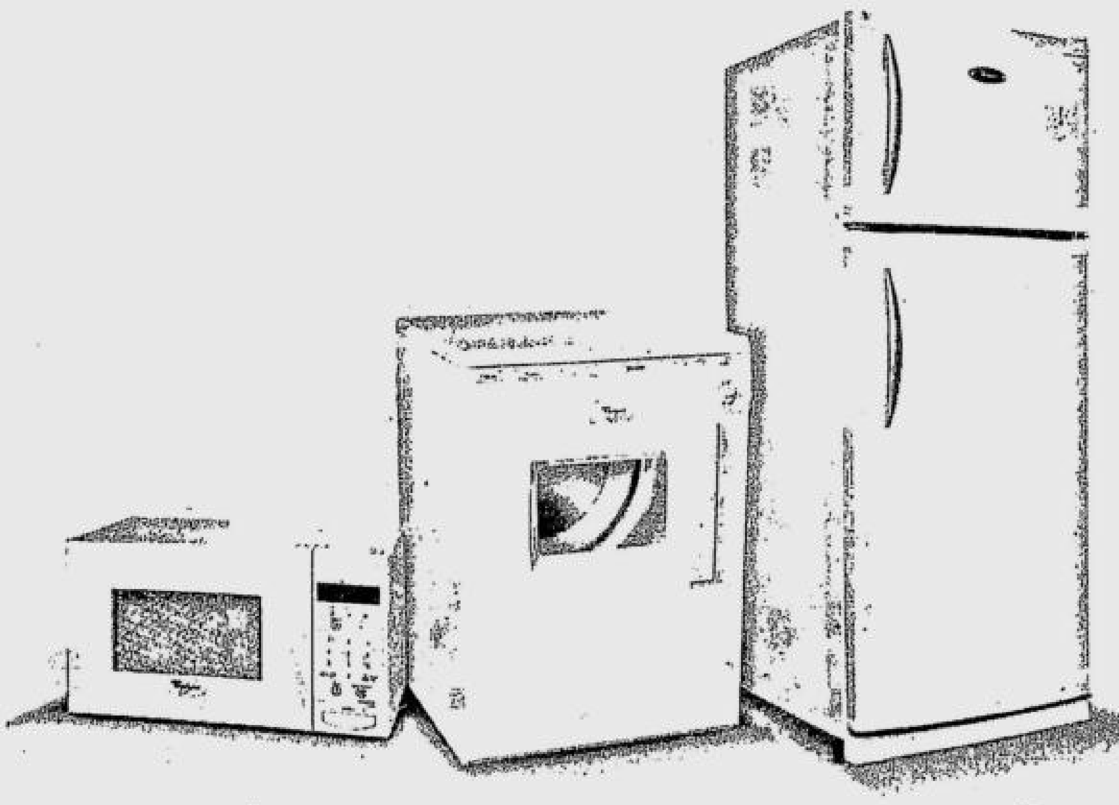

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Refrigerator	WRD 883	205 liters (7.5 cu. ft.) Top Mount Direct cool ref - Metallica series	P 14,950.00	P 4,983.33	P 2,491.66
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Israel choppers hit Palestinian compound; more strikes planned

GAZA—Israeli helicopter gunships struck a Palestinian government compound in the southern Gaza Strip on Saturday, driving home Israel's demand that Palestinian President Yasser Arafat do more to rein in militants.

The missile attack in the early hours devastated the Rafah offices of the Palestinian intelligence services and Force 17, Arafat's bodyguard unit, hours after a new round of US-brokered security talks aimed at halting the violence.

There were no immediate reports of casualties. A Palestinian official said the compound had been evacuated in anticipation of the attack, the latest Israeli retaliation after Palestinian suicide bombers killed 25 people in Israel last weekend.

Palestinians gathered at the scene of the ruined two-story building, picking over fragments of missiles. Witnesses said three helicopters fired at least five missiles.

"This is a war against the Palestinian people, an unfair war," said one Palestinian official, adding that the latest attack was "against efforts of peace the Americans and the rest of the world are trying to achieve."

On Friday, Israeli F-16 warplanes bombed the Palestinian Authority's main police headquarters in Gaza City, wounding at least 18 people.

Israel says it will keep up its strikes until Arafat acts against militants threatening the Jewish state's security in the almost 15-month-old Palestinian uprising against occupation.

During Friday's talks near Tel Aviv, brokered by US envoy Anthony Zinni, Israeli security chiefs rejected a Palestinian request that they ease the pressure in the occupied territories.

"It was a difficult meeting," an Israeli official said. "We were firm in raising our contention that the Palestinians are arresting only second- and third-rate terrorists, rather than going for the main culprits."

Palestinian security chiefs briefed Arafat but made no public comment on the meeting. Nabil Abu Rdainah, a senior aide to Arafat, said another meeting had been scheduled for Sunday.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has accused Arafat of making token arrests in response to Israeli and US demands for a crackdown on militants.

A US Embassy statement issued after the talks said the they focused on "practical steps to combat terror and violence."

In a rare interview with Israeli television, Arafat said on Friday night he was doing all he could to arrest militants. He said he had so far arrested 17 people on the list of 33 given to him by Zinni, along with "dozens of others."

When the Israeli interviewer suggested the United States saw the arrests as a sham, Arafat became visibly agitated: "Who cares about the Americans? The Americans are on your side and they gave you everything. Who gave you the planes? . . . Who gave you the tanks? . . . Who gave you all the money?"

The Israeli Army said the Rafah strike and Friday's attack in Gaza City came in response to ongoing Palestinian mortar attacks against Israeli settlements and military targets in the Gaza Strip.

The Palestinian security services whose offices were hit on Saturday "had direct or indirect responsibility for the mortar attacks," an Army statement said.

Palestinian security official rejected the charge.

"The security services which were hit had been working to spread security and stability in the Palestinian territories and to maintain the ceasefire," said Maj. Gen. Abdel-Razek Al-Majaydeh, Palestinian Authority public security chief.

The Israeli Army said there had been five Palestinian mortar attacks on a Jewish settlement in central Gaza on Friday, although there were no injuries or damage.

The Army also said it killed two Palestinian gunman near Adik village in the West Bank on Friday. The Army said soldiers intercepted the armed men when they came to a road in the area where there have been numerous shooting attacks.

Mustafa al-Malki, governor of the Palestinian town of Qalqilya, accused the Army of assassinating the two men, who he said were wanted activists from Arafat's Fatah faction. *Reuters*

PALESTINIAN boys wave a Palestinian flag on the top of a Gaza mosque during the funeral of Mohammed Selmi, 20, in the Gaza Strip Dec. 7. Selmi, a Hamas activist, was killed during clashes between Palestinian police and Hamas supporters early on Thursday. REUTERS

Habibie faces grilling over graft case

JAKARTA—Former president B.J. Habibie will meet Indonesian prosecutors seeking to question him over a graft case involving state food agency Bulog in Germany on Monday, one of his lawyers said on Saturday.

"Yes of course he will come, the two prosecutors have flown from far away to question him," Yan Juanda Saputra said.

Indonesian prosecutors left Jakarta on Friday for the German city of Hamburg in their bid to question Habibie, who is residing there, on the $5.3-million graft case.

Saputra said he would be flying to Hamburg later on Saturday to counsel Habibie.

Habibie has snubbed summons from Indonesia's Attorney General's office for questioning in Jakarta, citing reasons ranging from performing a religious pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia to tending to his sick wife in Germany.

Attorney General Muhammad Abdurrachman said earlier this week testimony from Habibie is key in the wide-ranging graft investigations that have implicated parliamentary speaker Akbar Tandjung and officials of the once ruling Golkar party Tandjung now leads.

The case could further destabilize Golkar, the second largest party in parliament, which already faces the challenge of throwing off, its legacy as the tool of former president Suharto during his 32-year authoritarian rule.

Tandjung, a witness in the scandal, has told prosecutors that when Habibie was leading crisis-racked Indonesia in 1999 he had instructed that Bulog money be used for humanitarian programs.

Prosecutors have named two former Bulog top officials as suspects because the disbursement of funds left no trail on the record and was thought to have been abused. One of the officials said he gave the funds to Tandjung.

Tandjung has denied any wrongdoing and said he ordered a charity to use the money to buy staple food for the poor. *Reuters*

Australia asks Nauru to take in more boat people

SYDNEY—Australia will ask the tiny island nation of Nauru, which is already housing some 700 boat people shipped from Australia, to process more asylum seekers, Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said on Saturday.

Australia is struggling to find more nations to join its controversial "Pacific solution" where boatpeople who arrive off its remote shores are shipped to neighboring islands to stop them from claiming refugee status on Australian soil.

Australia has paid Nauru and Papua New Guinea tens of millions of dollars to take hundreds of asylum seekers, but similar approaches to Fiji and Tuvalu have been rejected.

Downer will travel to the South Pacific next week, during which time he will seek a new boat people deal with Nauru.

"I'll be talking to them (Nauru) about a new arrangement while I'm there," Downer told Australian radio on Saturday, adding the discussions would focus on whether it would be possible for Nauru to process more people.

The Nauru asylum processing camp was condemned as cruel and demeaning in an Amnesty International report this week.

"The camps are hellish, Dante-like, groups of people are moving around slowly," said John Pace, a former top UN Commissioner for Human Rights, after visiting Nauru to prepare the Amnesty report.

"It's a lunar landscape . . . it's devastated." he said of conditions on the barren island.

Australia paid Nauru $10 million to build two camps to process 797 asylum seekers, the bulk of whom were rescued by the Norweigan freighter Tampa in the Indian Ocean and brought to Australia's remote Christmas Island in August.

Australia refused to accept the Afghans, claiming they were rescued in Indonesia's search and rescue area and were Jakarta's responsibility. The Tampa incident heralded a new hardline by Australia of turning back boatpeople who arrive from Indonesia.

Some 5,000 asylum seekers, mostly Middle Eastern and Afghan, arrive off Australia's remote northwest each year from Indonesia.

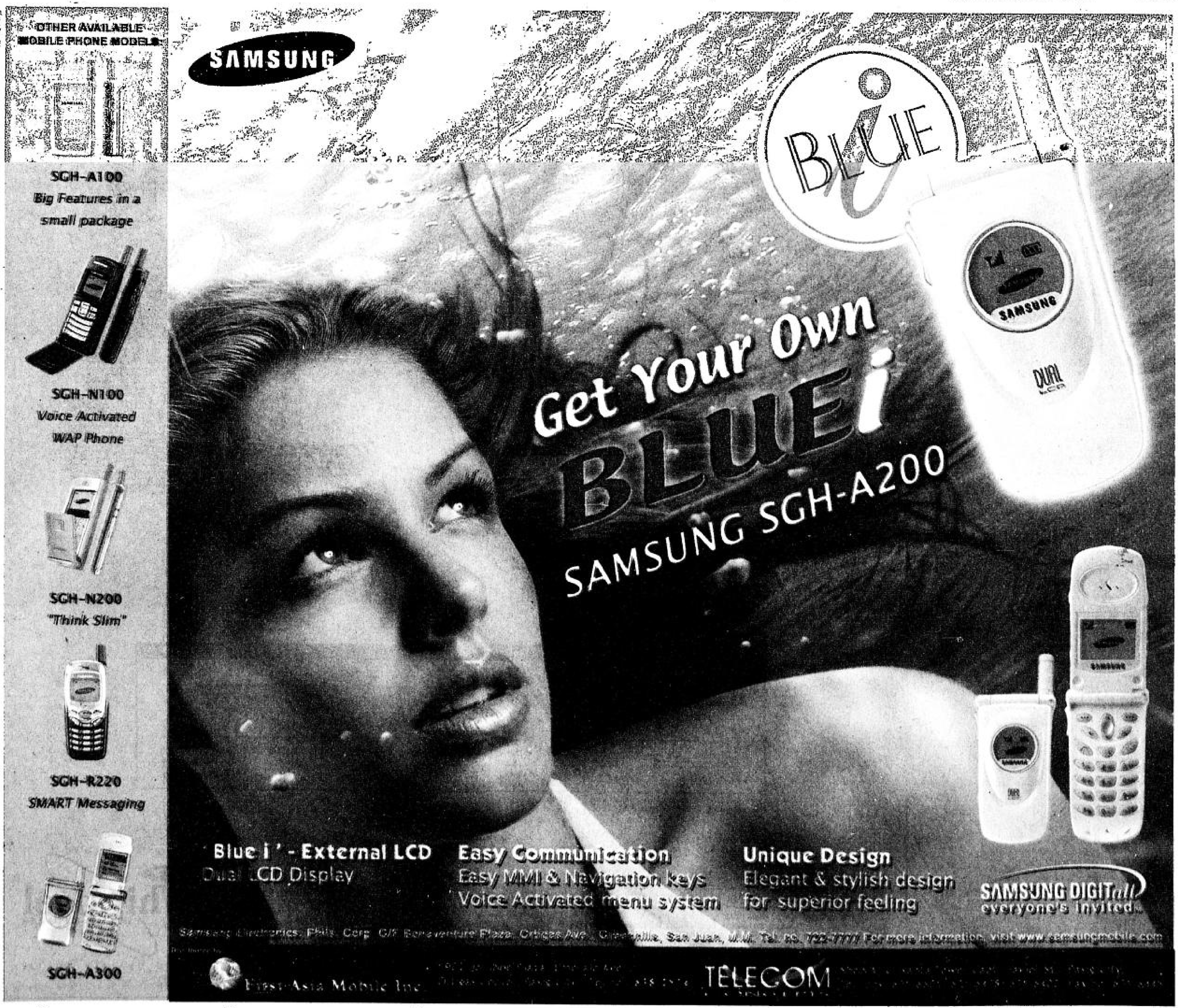
The number reaching Australia has jumped from a few hundred several years ago but is still relatively small by international comparisons.

The tough anti-boat people stance saw conservative Prime Minister John Howard win a third term in office last month.

Despite international criticism from human rights and religious groups, Howard has said he will not soften his anti-boat people stance, arguing the deterrence was working.

"We will not be altering our policy," Howard told a gathering of his Liberal Party in Sydney on Saturday.

"I don't pretend that the pipeline has dried up. But there is evidence that our policy is having a deterring effect," he said. *Reuters*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One-third of Southeast Asian prostitutes are children–Unicef

BANGKOK—An estimated one-third of the sex workers in Southeast Asia are children, and poverty is driving more minors into the sex trade, said a report released Friday by Unicef.

"What experienced child protection workers sense is that the problem is growing, fueled by conditions of poverty, illiteracy, AIDS and drug abuse," said Unicef, the United Nations Children's Fund.

The report Children on the Edge: Protecting Children from Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking in East Asia and the Pacific was released as part of preparations for the 2nd World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, to be held Dec. 17-10 in Yokohama, Japan.

The congress will consider how to protect the victims of sexual exploitation and reduce the demand for child sex workers.

Unicef's report notes that it is difficult to ascertain the exact scale of the problem because of its illicit and usually underground nature.

But it said that surveys by various government and private organization have found vast numbers of children working in the sex industries of the Mekong sub-region.

Unicef said the surveys found that 30-35 percent of all sex workers in the region, which comprises Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Burma, Laos, and Yunan and Guangxi provinces of southern China, are between 12 and 17 years old.

It also said that about 60 percent of Indonesia's 71,000 registered sex workers are between the ages of 15 and 20, and that nongovernmental organizations estimated there are hundreds of thousands of children involved in the sex trade in Thailand, even though government estimates put the figure at 12,000-18,000.

Unicef said one indicator of the vast size of the sex trade was an International Labor Organization estimate that it accounts for 14-16 percent of Thailand's total gross domestic product.

It said most of the girls and women entering the sex trade do so to escape poverty, or physical, sexual or mental abuse at home.

"Many have been raped or abandoned by a boyfriend or husband . . . given the cultural, economic and individual complexities of their situation, it is hard to suggest that these women and children have any real freedom of choice. The sex trade feed on the despair, ignorance and poverty of those it seeks to exploit."

The report also said that sex tourism, well established in Thailand, has increasingly become a problem in Cambodia and Vietnam, but that the region's sex trade and demand for underage sex is driven mostly by local clients.

"Moral double standards prevail in many countries in the region," it said. "While female prostitution is condemned as shameful, the practice of both married and single men using prostitutes is culturally acceptable."

Unicef charged that even though the scale of the sexual trade in children is clearly huge, "their abuse is denied for shame or fear of retribution, covered up and disguised, so even now the world has no true way of knowing how widespread is their exploitation." *AP*

CROWN Prince Naruhito (left), and Crown Princess Masako smile as the royal couple leaves the Imperial hospital with their infant daughter Princess Aiko in Tokyo, Dec. 8. REUTERS

Japanese get first glimpse of royal baby

TOKYO—Japan's Crown Princess Masako and baby princess Aiko left hospital on Saturday to cheers from thousands of well-wishers as the public got their first glimpse of the new royal addition.

Holding the baby wrapped in a white blanket, Masako bowed repeatedly to doctors and nurses at the entrance of the hospital located inside the grounds of the Imperial Palace in central Tokyo.

"Thank you very much," a white-suited Masako told the doctors, according to Imperial Household Agency officials.

The princess gave birth to Aiko on Dec. 1. The baby is her first child in eight years of marriage to Crown Prince Naruhito, 41, the heir to the Chrysanthemum Throne.

Both Masako, who will turn 38 Sunday, and Aiko are in good health, the officials said.

A rosy-cheeked Aiko slumbered peacefully in her mother's arms.

"She is sleeping well," Masako was quoted by the officials as telling Naruhito, who visited his wife and their first baby every day at the hospital after she was born.

Together with the crown prince, the two princesses returned to their own palace in the capital, where 2,600 police had been deployed to secure their return.

Some 3,500 people waved Japanese rising-sun flags and shouted "congratulations Masako!" as their car drove down the street to the crown prince's palace.

A smiling Masako, sitting in the rear seat with Aiko lying in a baby carrier, waved from the car.

Naruhito planned to host a tea ceremony later Saturday at his palace, inviting doctors and Imperial Household Agency officials engaged in last week's delivery, officials said.

As a girl, Aiko cannot succeed her father to the world's oldest monarchy under the present law of succession. If the baby had been a boy, he would have immediately become second in line.

Japan's ruling party has began deliberations on revising the law to allow women to ascend the imperial throne, following growing calls for female succession in light of the birth, news reports said.

If no boys are born in the future to royal women of child-bearing age—namely Masako and Princess Kiko, wife of Prince Akishino, Naruhito's younger brother—the imperial family would theoretically die out.

Akishino was the last boy to be born into the family in 1965.

On Friday, the infant was named Aiko and given the official royal name Toshinomiya. Aiko means "child of love." "Toshi" means "respect," while the suffix "miya" denotes an imperial prince or princess.

The baby was formally named by Emperor Akihito, although media reports said her parents actually chose the name from a shortlist drawn up by scholars. *AFP*

Laureates gather for Nobel centennial rites

OSLO, Norway—Violence in the Middle East, a slaying in South Africa and illness were intruding on Norway's plans to celebrate a hundred years of Nobel Peace Prizes, with a number of invited laureates pulling out as Monday's ceremony approached.

The Norwegian Nobel Institute had invited all living peace prize winners to return to Oslo for this year's centennial, including Nelson Mandela, F.W. de Klerk, Yasser Arafat, Shimon Peres, Mikhail Gorbachev, the Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu, Lech Walesa, Henry Kissinger and many others.

Mandela, Kissinger and Burma opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi said they would not attend, but 36 accepted and many were scheduled to speak at a three-day symposium starting Thursday—described as "the biggest assembly of Nobel peace laureates ever."

But that number had dwindled to 32 by Wednesday evening following a cancellation by de Klerk, the former South African president who shared the 1993 prize with Mandela for efforts to end apartheid, after his ex-wife, Marike, was found strangled at her Cape Town home.

Gorbachev, the 70-year-old 1990 laureate, was hospitalized last month and doctors said he needed to rest. The former Soviet leader deeply regretted that he would have to miss the celebrations, spokesperson Vladimir Polyakov said.

Betty Williams, who shared the 1976 Nobel prize for founding a mixed Protestant-Catholic peace movement in Northern Ireland, canceled due to a death in the family, and Roman Catholic Bishop Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo of East Timor wasn't feeling well, organizers said.

"We are very sorry of course that these individuals could not come but we still feel that we have a very good group of laureates," said Geir Lundestad, the nonvoting secretary of the Nobel Peace Prize committee. *AP*

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao including Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms. SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 23°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 20° Lo15°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 29° Lo 17°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 21°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 29° Lo 20°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 25°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 23°
Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Mostly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Mostly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy	Hi 31 Lo 25°
Davao	Mostly Cloudy	Hi 31 Lo 25°

Compiled by: Chona Galang, PDI Research/12/09/01

ROUNDUP

Drop in investments

COTABATO CITY—Investments in Central Mindanao during the first 11 months dropped to P3.27 billion compared with last year's P4.415 billion. Trade officials said the rising number of kidnapping cases involving foreigners in Mindanao has contributed to the downturn. Ibrahim Guiamadel, trade director in Central Mindanao, said investment figures came from new capital for the expansion of businesses such as Stanfilco, a banana plantation in North Cotabato and Alcantara and Sons (Mindanao Portland) cement plant in Iligan City. *Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

'Possessed' kills son

CABARROGUIS, Quirino—Claiming he was "possessed" by an evil spirit, a farmer stabbed and killed his son and wounded his wife in Barangay Tucod here on Monday. Police said the suspect, Pablo Balatong, told investigators that he was not aware that he was attacking his wife Maria and their son Lorenzo. Maria said that about 1 a.m. Monday, she woke up to boil water and saw her husband acting strangely. She said Balatong suddenly stabbed her and their son, who was sleeping in their room. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Drug suspect nabbed

GUMACA, Quezon—A suspected drug pusher was arrested here Tuesday in a buy-bust operation, police said. Melvin Mendoza, 33, of Barangay Bagong Buhay here was arrested inside his house. One of his alleged runners, identified as Vincent Segui, reportedly escaped during the commotion. Found in Mendoza's possession were several plastic sachets containing an undetermined grams of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) and wads of hundred-peso bills. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

200 reservists trained

LUCENA CITY—At least 200 members of the 41st Ready Reserve Force from the Quezon Home Defense Center have been undergoing the mandatory 10-day training in Camp Nakar since Thursday. Jose Asensi Jr., regional director of the Philippine Information Agency and battalion commander of the training corps, said the exercise focused on how to deal with calamities and emergency situations in the community. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

1 killed in collision

CALAMBA CITY—A JAM Transit bus rammed two vehicles at the South Luzon Expressway before it turned on its side at 10:35 a.m. Thursday, killing the driver and injuring 14 passengers. PO3 Isagani Riosa of the Santa Rosa town police, identified the fatality as Marcelino M. Retis, of De La Paz, Biñan. He said six of the injured were rushed to the St. Mark's Hospital in Mayapa here, and the rest were confined at the Muntinlupa Medical Center. *Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Life term for 2 rapists

BACOLOD CITY—Two persons were sentenced Friday to 80-years prison terms each for raping a 25-year-old church choir member nine years ago. Judge Edgardo de los Santos of the Bacolod Regional Trial Court found Alexandre Morales Zolayvar and Eleno Alunan guilty of raping the young woman inside the premises of the Don J. Amado Araneta Elementary School here in the night of Dec. 23, 1992. The victim was going home after a choir practice when she was waylaid and raped by the knife-wielding suspects, court records showed. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Fake hair products seized

ILOILO CITY—The National Bureau of Investigation here confiscated a hoard of fake hair care and detergent products worth P500,000 in simultaneous raids Thursday. The fake products were seized from the warehouses and stalls of Leung Ping Trading Store, TNT Marketing and CTT Trading here, which were ordered searched by a court following complaints filed by Procter and Gamble and Uniliver Philippines. *Nestor Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau*

Bill vs election duties

NAGA CITY—Responding to a proposal of Education Secretary Raul Roco that public school teachers should be freed from election duties, Camarines Sur Rep. Sulpicio Roco Jr. has filed a bill seeking to amend The Election Reform Act of 1987. Roco, younger brother of the education secretary, said it was imperative that public school teachers concentrate on their teaching duties amid the dismal findings of a United Nations study about the deteriorating quality of education in the Philippines. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

More soldiers sought to fight Panay rebels

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—More government troops are needed in Panay Island as the number of insurgency-affected barangays increased sharply, a top Army official said.

Col. Jeffrey Sodusta, head of Task Group Panay, which is in charge of internal security operations on the island, said his unit was supporting the request of Lt. Gen. Jaime de los Santos, Army chief, for 20,000 new soldiers to fight communist rebels and Moro separatists.

The Macapagal administration has requested Congress to boost the Army's forces by 29.4 percent, from 68,000 to 88,000 soldiers.

"More soldiers will mean it will be easier to contain the enemy," Sodusta said in Filipino in a phone interview.

Human rights groups that are commemorating the International Human Rights Day on Monday said the additional troops would not solve the insurgency problem and could lead to more human rights abuses.

"Instead of more soldiers, guns, and bombs, why not more land, jobs and higher wages?" said Samuel Jaco, secretary general of the Panay Alliance-Karapatan.

Jaco said the request for more troops showed that the administration has not departed from the "militarist mindset" of the Estrada and other previous administrations.

A report of the Philippine National Police last month revealed that the number of barangays affected by the communist insurgency in Western Visayas reached 220 or 5.43 percent of the 4,048 barangays in the region.

The figure is up by 172 or 358 percent from last year's figure of 48 barangays.

The PNP report placed the combined strength of the breakaway Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA-ABB) and the Communist Party of the Philippines' New People's Army in the region at 1,011 with 727 firearms for the second quarter.

The figure is slightly lower than the 1,015 rebels with 750 firearms recorded during the first quarter.

In Panay, rebel strength was placed at 187 members with 149 firearms in the second quarter, down from 299 members with 248 firearms in the first quarter.

There was a slight increase in Negros Occidental at 824 members with 578 firearms in the second quarter from 716 with 502 firearms in first quarter.

Sodusta said only the Army's 12th Infantry Battalion and the 31st and 32nd Reconnaissance Companies of the Third Infantry Division were left in Panay after three battalions were deployed to Mindanao. A battalion consists of around 500 soldiers.

The 6th IB and 47th IB were sent to Cotabato last year at the height of operations against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. The 11th IB was also sent to Jolo against the Abu Sayyaf bandit group.

He said they have deferred the deployment of the 31st Reconnaissance Company to Basilan after NPA guerrillas burned P7 million worth of heavy equipment owned by the construction firm F.F. Cruz & Co. Inc. in Antique on Sept. 9.

The rebels said they "punished" the firm for failing to pay "revolutionary taxes."

The Army has conducted operations and sent more troops to insurgency-affected areas, especially in the tri-boundary of the Cuartero, Maayon and Dumarao towns in Capiz. Security in Army detachments has also been tightened.

Sodusta said the Army would organize two more companies of the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit.

He said the rebels were expected to step up attacks as the next round of peace negotiations between the government and the NDF nears this month in Oslo, Norway.

Alert up on smuggled firecrackers in Quezon

CAMP NAKAR, Lucena City—The military's Southern Luzon Command here said on Friday its troops were closely watching the long coastal areas of Quezon for the possible landing of smuggled pyrotechnic and firecrackers in time for the New Year celebration.

Maj. Gerard Velez, Solcom spokesperson, said the command was particularly concerned with intelligence reports that communist rebels were using leftover pyrotechnics and firecrackers in making explosives.

He pointed out that after the New Year celebration last year, police and military personnel confiscated volumes of "surprisingly unused" high-powered commercial explosives.

"Most of them were imported ones," Velez said.

He said that this time, the military was not taking any chances.

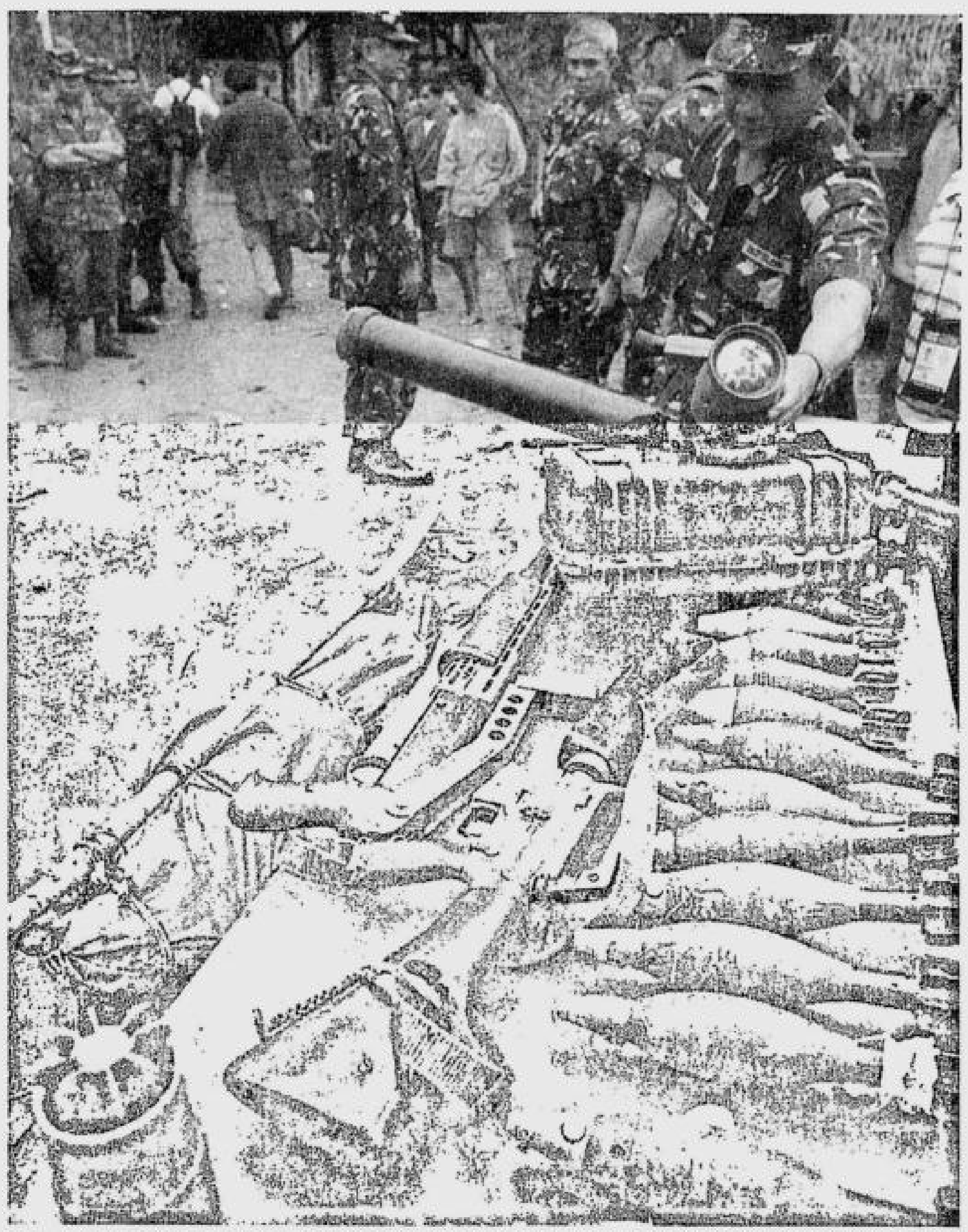
"We have strict coordination with the local police force in monitoring the long coastal areas in the Solcom area of jurisdiction, especially in the Tayabas and Lamon Bay areas in Quezon province," he said.

"This time, the insurgents could strike a deal with smugglers—that they would be the ones to secure the landing of explosive stuff in exchange for brand new and freshly made pyrotechnics and firecrackers," Velez said.

Supt. Roberto Rasales, Quezon police chief, said the Quezon coastline has long been under close watch for different smuggling activities, notably illegal drug smuggling.

"But this holiday season, we tighten the security measures in anticipation of increased illegal economic activities along the shorelines, including the possible illegal entry of imported New Year's explosives," Rosales said.

He said he had ordered increased monitoring activities of the "barangay intelligence networks." *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



ABU SAYYAF FIREPOWER CHARLIE SACEDA/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Army Col. Hermogenes Esperon looks at the thermal imaging equipment, guns and ammunition recovered from Abu Sayyaf Bandits during a firefight Friday in Basilan.

CPLA airs apology for fund campaign

BAGUIO CITY—A faction of the Cordillera People's Liberation Army apologized over a radio station here on Friday for an "unauthorized" solicitation drive that earned for them P9,000 for training of recruits.

Val Estolas, administrative officer of the CPLA faction loyal to Mayor Mailed Molina of Bucloc, Abra, promised to return the solicited amount to various business establishments here.

"I apologize on behalf of the CPLA . . . I promise to return the money to the establishments in two weeks . . . to save the face of the CPLA," Estolas said over radio station dzBS.

Supt. Villamor Bumanglag, city police director, earlier ordered the arrest of three armed CPLA men, who were reported collecting the solicitation letters.

Estolas blamed a CPLA official, Selwart Fulgaon, for the fund solicitation issue. He said the CPLA faction leaders would give Fulgaon "a stern warning."

The apology was issued to preempt a Malacañang directive that tasks the Armed Forces to review the terms of the CPLA's integration into the military.

A government source said the review addresses the lessons learned from the rebellion attempt in Sulu by several military integrees of the Moro National Liberation Front loyal to Nur Misuari, former governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

The source said the government wants to tighten the control over former rebels employed by government.

"Misuari managed to retain the loyalty of several Army men, who belonged to his old (militia), and the military doesn't want that to happen again in the North," the source said.

On Sept. 1, President Macapagal-Arroyo issued Administrative Order 18, which opened 264 slots in the military's annual personnel quota for qualified militia applicants of the three CPLA factions.

The order also allowed the remaining CPLA members to form three Citizens' Armed Forces Geographic Units and provided livelihood projects for militiamen who will opt for retirement.

But the source said the government employed the CPLA militiamen as a political concession and had ignored their criminal records.

"Palace officials are now wary and want to impose restrictions on militiamen recruited into the military," the source said. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Flood control project shelved in Bulacan

CALUMPIT, Bulacan—Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong has shelved a flood control project that would displace more than 100,000 people in 27 villages in Bulacan. Datumanong, in a message sent to Bulacan Rep. Wilhelmino Sy-Alvarado, said the Department of Public Works and Highways decided to suspend the second phase of the Pampanga Delta Development Project (PDDP) and just concentrate on the dredging of the Labangan channel in the province.

The PDDP aims to reduce flooding in Pampanga and Bulacan by dredging and widening the rivers in the two provinces to allow floodwater to freely flow into Manila Bay.

Residents in Calumpit, Hagonoy and Paombong towns are opposing the project for fear that it will displace them from their farms and homes.

Alvarado said Datumanong, in a letter, granted his request for a dredging machine that will be assigned to the first district of Bulacan to dredge the Labangan channel.

The congressman said the equipment would be turned over to his office in March next year.

Alvarado, vice chair of the House committees on public works and highways and on appropriations, said Datumanong gave him the assurance that the "PDDP phase II was no longer included in the 24th, 25th and 26th special yen loan packages."

"(It) will never be included in any subsequent and forthcoming packages," Alvarado said, citing the assurances from Datumanong.

Alvarado said people who will be affected by the project were supporting the dredging of the Labangan Channel as the province's contribution to solve the perennial flooding in Pampanga and Bulacan. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Deal on power plant's realty tax hits snag

LUCENA CITY—The provincial government's efforts to forge a compromise real property tax settlement with the operator of the Mauban power plant hit a snag Wednesday when Gov. Wilfrido Enverga returned the authority to negotiate earlier extended to him by the provincial council.

In a letter addressed to the council members dated Dec. 5, Enverga pointed out that he was returning the authority "to give the matter a brand new and fresh start."

"I have learned to contend with the bitter and unfair truth that whatever moves I will make just to break this tax impasse will surely invite the impression, if not accusation, that I have been remiss in my duties as chief executive of the province," Enverga said.

The action of the provincial governor stemmed from a report last week in a local tabloid that some council members allegedly received at least P350,000 each as "down payment" to support the negotiated settlement being worked out by Enverga.

The report, however, did not name the source of the money.

The governor branded the report as "irresponsible journalism." The report also angered the provincial council.

Vice Gov. Jovito Talabong urged the members to file libel charges against the local newspaper. But no one from the council has responded yet.

Board member Eladio Pasamba, in a privileged speech, instead put the blame on Enverga's alleged "lack of transparency in his negotiation with Quezon Power (Philippines) Ltd. (QPL), which has given rise to media speculations."

QPL operates the 440-megawatt coal-fired power plant in Cagsiay I, Mauban.

The Mauban municipal assessor had assessed QPL's real property tax liability at more than P500 million. But the firm claimed that the assessor erred in his computation of the right tax base.

QPL filed a consignation proceeding before the regional trial court in Mauban.

It deposited with the court at least P180 million as proof of its intention to meet its tax obligation.

Wanting to avoid a protracted court litigation, Enverga asked the provincial council last August to authorize him to negotiate with the US-based firm.

However, Pasamba, a lawyer and certified public accountant, pointed out that the authority given to the governor through a council resolution was not to negotiate with QPL for any amount.

He said Enverga's authority was only to reconcile the contrasting position of the municipal assessor and QPL officials on the correct tax base to be used in the computation.

Board member Vicente Alcala asked about the result of the governor's negotiation with QPL based on the authority that the board had given him.

During the council's debate on the issue, Pasamba, Alcala and at least two other council members claimed that there was also a deliberate substitution of the contents of Resolution No. 2001-72 that authorized Enverga to negotiate.

Pasamba recalled that when the particular document was passed around for members to sign, "it was a totally different resolution."

'The resolution was not what was approved by the Sanggunian. It is a very clear case of substitution perpetrated by a member or members of this body, for why would the secretariat prepare such an abbreviated resolution?" he said.

He said the original resolution they passed contained the definite parameters of Enverga's authority.

The board member has accused some council members, which he did not identify, of having been "unknowingly (cooperative) in the scheme being perpetrated by some personalities (at) the office of the governor to commit this impropriety."

Chucky Rivera, QPL community relation officer, promised the INQUIRER that he would e-mail the company's side on the matter. But as of press time, it has not been sent.

Another company insider, who requested not to be named, said QPL did not want to comment on the issue, adding that it did not want to be caught in a controversy between opposing political groups.

"We are just after the right tax base to be used in the computation of our realty tax obligation, which we are very much willing to settle. In fact, we have deposited with the court at least P180 million as proof of our intention to meet our tax payable. As much as possible, we would like to help all local government units concerned," he said. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Theology prof to be ordained new Imus bishop

TAGLE

IMUS, Cavite—An Ateneo de Manila University alumnus and graduate of the San Jose Major Seminary will be ordained bishop for the Diocese of Imus, Cavite, on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Dec. 12.

Pope John Paul II appointed Rev. Fr. Luis Antonio "Chito" G. Tagle on Oct. 11 as the fourth bishop of Imus, succeeding Most Rev. Manuel C. Sobreviñas, D.D.

His appointment was made public on Oct. 22, according to Insta, the official publication of the San Jose Seminary.

Tagle finished with a philosophy degree at the Ateneo and San Jose seminary where he graduated summa cum laude in 1977. He took up theology at the Loyola School of Theology in 1982.

He completed his licentiate and doctoral degrees at the Sacred Theology at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. in 1991.

The bishop-elect is currently pastor of the Our Lady of the Pillar Cathedral in Imus and rector of the Tahanan ng Mabuting Pastol, the diocesan major seminary of Imus.

Aside from presbyteral assignments in the Diocese of Imus, Tagle takes active part in other ministries, according to Insta.

Tagle is a professor of theology at the Loyola School of Theology, Ateneo de Manila University and the Divine Word Seminary in Tagaytay City.

He is also a consultor to the Commission on the Doctrine of the Faith of the influential Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines and facilitator of the CBCP's National Ongoing Formation for priests.

He is a member of the editorial board of the Storia del Concilio Vaticano II, Instituto per le scienze religiose, Bologne, Italy, and of the International Theological Commission.

Tagle is also an expert on the Special Assembly of the Synod of Bishops for Asia. *Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

₱20 wage hike too small, say workers

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A kilo of rice or two cans of sardines.

These are what the P20 increase in daily minimum wage, to be implemented starting Jan. 16 next year, could only buy for some two million private sector employees in Central Luzon, workers said.

The increase, approved by the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board in Central Luzon on Wednesday, was P49.50 below the P69.50 sought in a petition filed by the Labor Solidarity Movement.

The amount was P105 lower than the P125 demanded by the Manggagawa Para sa Kalayaan ng Bayan (Makabayan) and the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU).

"The P20 increase is a pittance. It could hardly stave off hunger among workers. This just shows how pro-capitalists the Macapagal administration is. No doubt, its policy is to sacrifice the workers," Joel Morante, Makabayan secretary general, said.

Sabino Mendiola and Raul Remodo, labor representatives in the seven-member wage board, stood pat on their petition for a P69.50 across-the-board increase and refused to sign the new wage order.

Since September, the board had been swamped with petitions from business chambers and labor federations in the region.

The business groups cited the need to avoid retrenchments and operation shutdowns by deferring wage increases after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States that worsened global recession.

The Department of Labor and Employment reported that 11,955 Central Luzon workers, mostly in the manufacturing industry, were laid off between January and September this year.

Labor groups, on the other hand, pushed for "realistic living wages" amid the economic crisis.

Makabayan wanted a P525 daily living wage based on the daily cost-of-living figures of the National Economic and Development Authority.

Workers also clamored for packages of tax exemptions and food, social and housing subsidies from government.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

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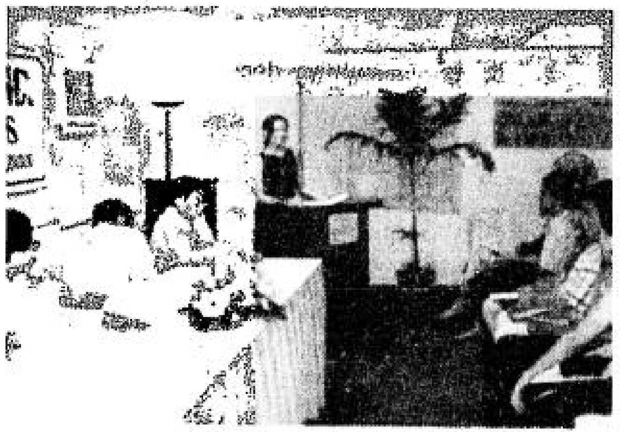

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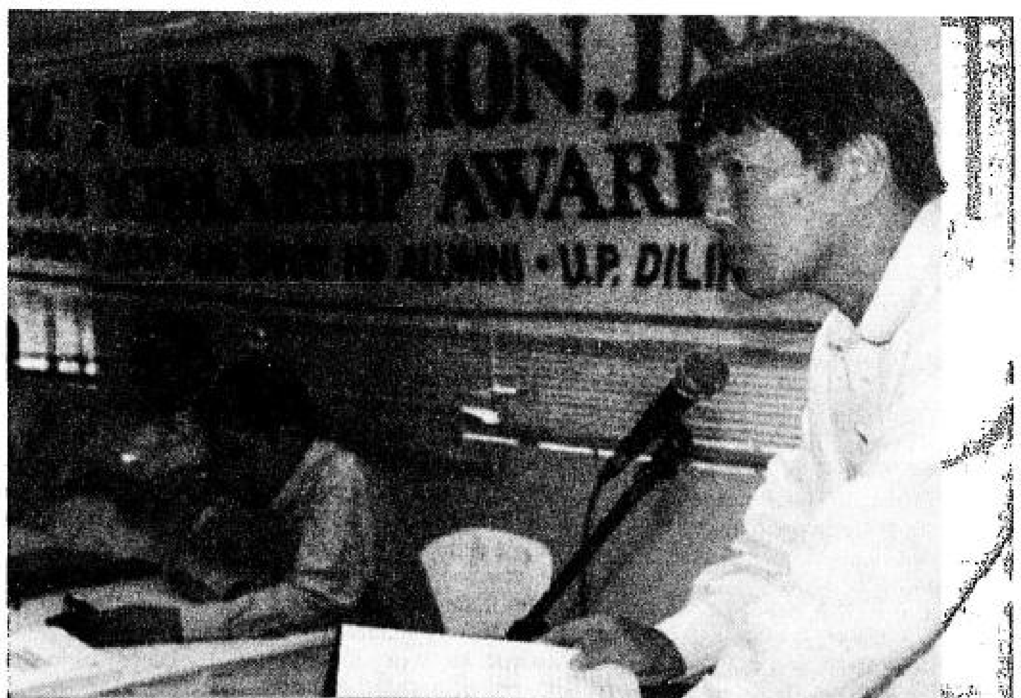
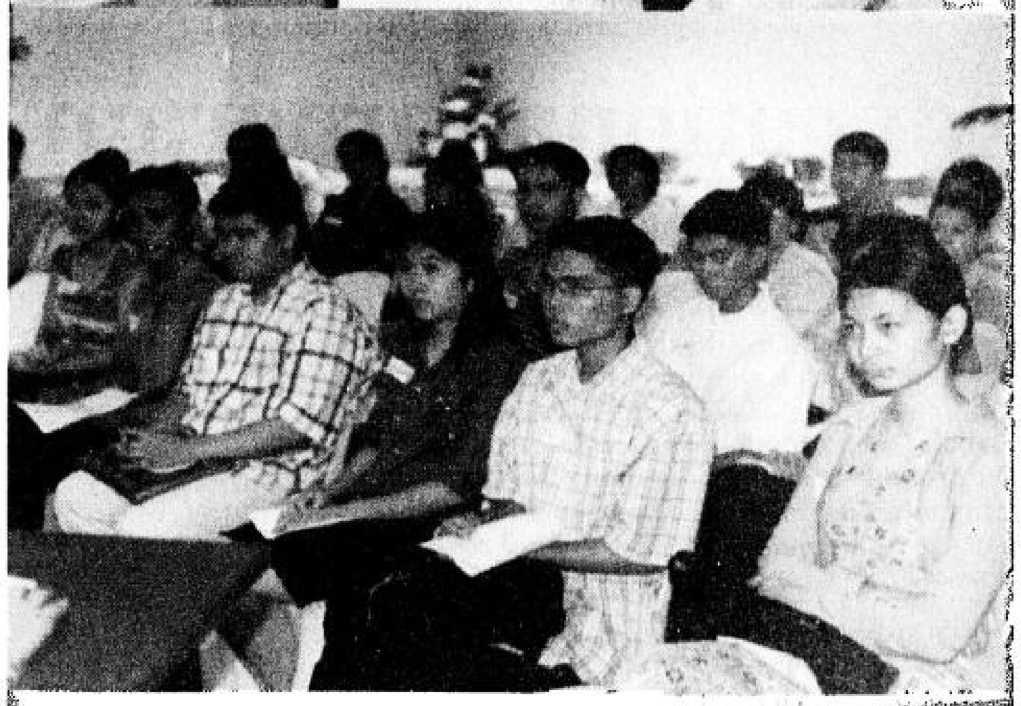




INQUIRER Mindanao
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ NICO A. ALCONABA, Bureau Chief

The making of a tribal leader

By Ma. Kristina E. Cassion
La Paz, Agusan del Sur

WITH butterflies in his stomach, Hinalo Yawenhon fights for composure and tries to sit up straight. Taking a deep breath, he concentrates on what will happen very soon.

Seeing him that way is but understandable. After all, the upcoming activity is overly important for every Chosen One's quest to become a full-fledged datu of the Manobos in La Paz, Agusan del Sur, and one day carry the task of leading his tribe.

Beside Hinalo sat Berma Hilarion, ever regal in bearing as what befits the daughter of the Supreme Datu.

While waiting for the ceremony to start, Berma could not help but recall her early childhood when she used to accompany her father and listen to him preside over meetings and decide on very important cases that affected the community.

She could not believe that she would one day become as important as her father and be counted among the leaders.

Two other would-be datus, Podong Francisco and Molong Castro, sat in line, buried in their own thoughts. Both had a faraway look on their faces.

The elder datus, tasked with guiding them in their training, took their places in front. Supreme Datu Manluwasan nodded at the *baylan* (shaman), signaling the start of the Pamaliskad ritual.

The *baylan* chanted in a language so old that it spanned centuries, his voice ringing clearly all over the hall. Seconds later, he was joined by elder datus for the *panawagtawag* to implore the blessings of the Magbabaya (God) for the success of the event.

The Pamaliskad is the next step in a threefold process of training datus and *bais* as future leaders.

Selection process

The recruits are carefully chosen through a long, arduous process.

One cannot be a leader without the basis of heritage, according to Supreme Datu Manluwasan. This means that the father of any would-be leader should come from a lineage of datus.

But this, Manluwasan said, is not the sole basis. One may have a datu father but if he does not possess leadership qualities, he will not be chosen, he said.

As they grow up, the children of datus are kept under the watchful eyes of the elder leaders and the whole tribe itself.

Potential leaders should possess such traits as sincerity, honesty, service, courage and sound judgment to gain the approval of the elder datus.

As part of their training, they are brought to observe to meetings and case settlements. When the tribe is already certain that they can withstand the rigors of formal training, they are made to undergo the *lugnat*, the first stage.

During this ritual, the chosen ones are given their first datu and bai names.

After the *lugnat* comes the *pamaliskad*. The transition period, however, is not specified.

After having helped in various case settlements, the datu and *bai* must cleanse themselves of impurities in case the tribe decides to hold the *pamaliskad*.

The ritual is not just a purifying process but also, as crudely translated, a promotion to the status of second-level datus and bais.

The *dumalungdong* is the highest and final rite, which only the Supreme Datu can call and preside. There, the chosen ones would sit, together with all the datus and bais, and be treated as part of the staff of the Supreme Datu.

Again, when to hold the *dumalungdong* is not certain for it depends on whether the tribe has found them capable of fulfilling the tasks of full-fledged datus and bais.

Tasks

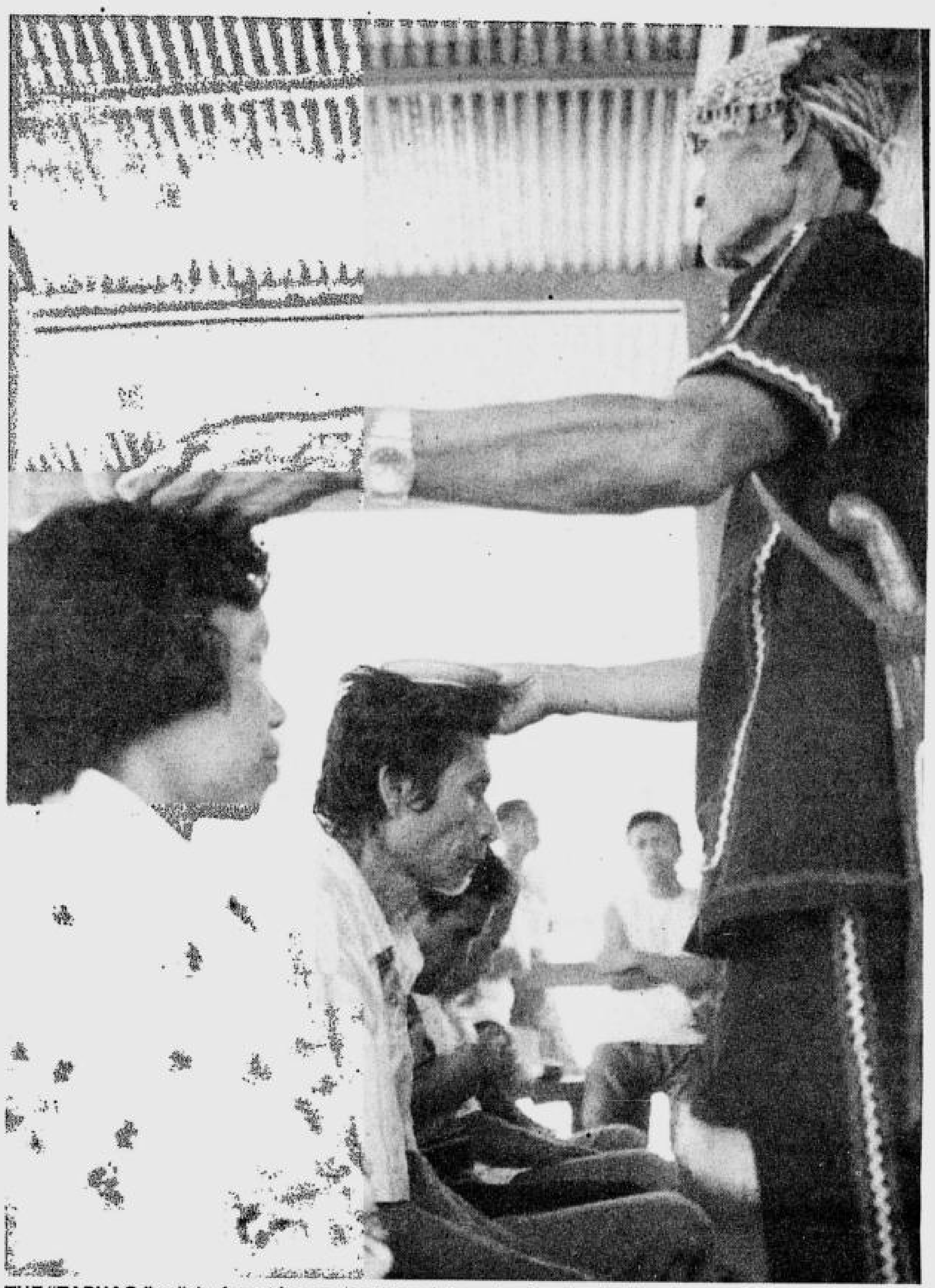
After the panawagtawag, the four would-be leaders remained in their seats to listen to the sermon of Datu Loay-Loay of the adjacent Banwaon tribe. The datu was solely invited to help in the ceremony (the Manobos are so closely related with the Banwaons, Higaonons and Talaandigs that they often invite datus from any of the tribes to help perform the rituals).

"Come darkness, rain or high waters, a leader should travel to any area to settle a problem or attend meetings. Lazy people have no place in leading a tribe," says Datu Loay-Loay.

More importantly, he adds, a leader should vow to uphold the *Kiyala ha Batasan* (customary law) that guides the tribe, to protect the forests, farmland and rivers from encroachment and destruction, to appease the spirits that owns them, and to put the tribe first before personal interests.

Looking at Berma, the datu said, "You who will be a bai. A partner of the datu is given, among others, the important task of mediating conflicts, not just within the tribe but with other tribes as well. You will have to sit in *tampodas* or *lidos* (meetings to settle major conflicts). That is why you should have a strong heart, an iron-willed disposition, and sound judgment, for the unity of tribes is in your hands."

Facing the four of them, he asked, "If any of you possesses a faint heart and can honestly say you cannot fulfill these tasks, please do so now, for there is no turning back after this."



THE "TAPHAG," a dish of meat from a slaughtered pig and native rice, is placed on top of the heads of would-be tribal leaders as part of the blessing ritual. MA. KRISTINA CASSION

But they sat up straight, a silent gesture of acceptance.

After ascertaining their response, Datu Loay-Loay and other elder datus gave each of them a *timoso* (ancient gold bracelet) and *salay* (beaded necklace), symbols of their acceptance of their mighty tasks, while the Supreme Datu observed the process with approval.

After the items were given, the new datus and bai were each given their own name that would best describe them as a leader or the tasks that lay ahead of them.

Hinalo was given the name Datu Manhimbuyong (a person who always studies the system of case settlements), Berma as Bai Bayo (the first bai to organize the *Kiyala ha Batasan*), Podong as Datu Lumalantaw (to look after the tribe's future), and Molong as Datu Bumabantay (guardian of the tribe).

They will divide among themselves the four tasks of a tribal leader: case settlement, mediation, guardian of culture and tradition, and protector of the tribe (leader of the *bagani* or warriors).

The elder datus proceeded to slaughter the sacrificial pig. With its blood, they marked the hands of the datus and bai.

The simple ceremony moved the people to tears.

Supreme Datu Manluwasan stood in front of Hinalo Yawenhon, now Datu Manhimbuyong. He removed his *tubaw* (scarf), made of horse hair and ancient beads that was given to him by the previous Supreme Datu, and wrapped it around Manhimbuyong's head, a symbol that Hinalo is now the anointed heir.

The people, as witnesses to the conferment, simultaneously cried out to the Magbabaya, "Guide Hinalo, our next Supreme Datu! Protect him! Make him strong enough to lead us!"

Who's fake, who's real?

DOMINGO Pareja Jr., National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) director for Caraga, has warned that so many persons wanted to become datus because of the position's power and perks.

"The NCIP will only recognized traditionally accepted datus that we know on the recommendation of the tribal chieftain. I am a Manobo myself so I know from A to Z who the real tribal leaders are," Pareja said.

He added that the government, under the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (Ipra), would only grant Certificates of Ancestral Domain Claim (CADCs) to those recognized as real datus.

The CADC, Pareja said, not only attested to his being a true leader but also to his control over large tracts of land in *lumad* territory.

"In La Paz, the only recognized Supreme Datu is Tagliyong Cogit. Look at the CADC in La Paz, it is under his name.

This Supreme Datu Manluwasan is a fake," Pareja declared.

But Manluwasan vehemently reacts. He said the NCIP had always been meddling with their culture by indiscriminately conferring the datu status on persons it can easily approach, and any mining, logging and tree plantation concessionaires can easily con into selling their land.

He advised the NCIP to investigate who among these datus have a following in their tribe and if these people even know and understand the *Kiayaha ha Batasan*.

Manluwasan contended that these "fake" datus do not even know how to perform centuries-old rituals observed by their tribe since they are making up their own rituals.

"A datu does not need papers. He does not need to sign anything signifying he is the true datu. The basis is the blood marked on their hands during the conferment ritual, with the people as witness. This is what *the Kiayala ha Batasan* says," Manluwasan said. ***Ma. Kristina Cassion***

Educational program no tall tale for T'boli villagers

BY MARIA CECIL B. LAGUARDIA
South Cotabato

FOR a first timer, the ride to Afus in South Cotabato is both exhilarating and awful. From the provincial seat, which is the city of Koronadal, you take either a commuter van or passenger jeepney going to the *poblacion* of Allah Valley (popularly known as Surallah). That would take around 30 minutes, excluding the wait at the terminal until the vehicle is filled to the roof and on all sides.

Then you take another jeepney or van going to the town of T'boli (the ride is roughly 45 minutes). At the *poblacion*, you transfer to a "skylab" (motorcycle which carries as many as seven passengers per trip). You won't miss them; they're all over and will swarm at you as soon as you alight from the jeep or van.

If you are the safety-conscious type, you are in for a disappointment. There are only two choices: to take the skylab or walk.

But along the way, you forget the discomfort and find your fear unfounded. The tree-lined rugged road gives you the coolest of breezes even in a warm afternoon, the smell of decaying leaves and stray ferns wafting pleasantly through the air.

Except for few butt-numbing encounters and scary crevices along the way due to soil erosion, the trip is a rare nature treat. The best thing is, here the world without borders seemed unthinkable and the World Trade Center bombing is unheard of, except by very, very few souls. Life is just simply as you live it.

Afus, a T'boli word for bamboo, is so named after a five-hectare bamboo plantation that was cleared to make way for the community way back in 1981. It is among the newest of the 24 barangays of T'boli, at the south-central part of Mindanao. It became a full-pledged barangay in 1985.

Although not exactly at the far end (Sitio Desawo is a few kilometers away), Afus gives one the feeling of tranquility due to the surrounding mountains, barren of trees and people.

According to village founder and former *kagawad* (councilman) Samuel Haus, the original site was at the "*tabuk* (across the creek)." For accessibility and to encourage the T'boli tribe to live in a cluster, the 10-hectare village site was bought from a settler, after it was identified by the staff of the then Philippine National Minorities (Panamin) office of then President Ferdinand Marcos as a satellite housing project.

Though disturbed by intermittent land conflicts between Ilonggo settlers and the T'bolis since the '70s, the village managed to remain a predominant T'boli community (only five-percent Ilonggo). The mix is credited to intermarriages.

PUPILS of the Afus Elementary School in T'boli, South Cotabato, await their turn to perform during a school program. MARIA CECIL B. LAGUARDIA

Ethnicity

To preserve their ethnicity, Haus continuously cautions fellow T'bolis that despite their preference for "Visayan clothes, they should not forget their tribal blood and traditions."

A former Panamin employee himself who was in-charge of mobilizing his fellow *lumads* to occupy Afus, Haus recalls the conflict's bloody chapter as both tribes asserted their claims to land ownership. He facilitated dialogues that lessened, if not totally healed, the antagonism.

From less than 1,000, the population of Afus has grown to more than 2,000, prompting the barangay council to file a resolution for expanding the village site. Recently, the installation of electric lines by the South Cotabato I Electric Cooperative (Socoteco I) was started through the initiative of new South Cotabato Gov. Daisy Avance-Fuentes.

But the best thing that ever happened to Afus was the coming of the World Vision, said Haus and another *kagawad*, Bobby Munday. The group is a child-focused nongovernment organization committed to holistic transformational development through its area development programs (ADPs) and the pursuance of programs, such as child sponsorship, micro-enterprise development, health, peace-building and initiative against child labor.

The *kagawads* are optimistic that within 15 years, they will have professional T'bolis coming from the place. They urged their constituents to "support the program for the development of their tribe and for a better future."

The World Vision, through its Area Development Program (ADP) for South Cotabato, sponsors more than a hundred out of a total of 173 elementary pupils from the Afus Elementary School. The pupils feel fortunate that despite their distance, the World Vision found them. They can hardly believe they were among the few villages chosen to benefit from the program. Recently, ADP coordinator Ophelia Sitjar turned over a donation of chairs to the school.

Somebody cares

On the whole, the presence of the World Vision, through the ADP South Cotabato, gives the Afus residents a feeling that somebody cares and is willing to be with them in their quest to raise their self-respect and status in society. The profuse "*madamo nga salamat*" they expressed over and over again is just one indication.

T'boli Mayor Sarsi Atam, a retired policeman, has education on top of his priorities. He believes that with a professional degree, T'bolis will be trusted and looked up with integrity, although we all believe that this is not supposed to be the measure of one's true character.

As proof of their sincerity to uplift his constituents' educational attainment, the administration sends more than 30 college students on a two-year scholarship, all of them coming from poor families. The number will be eventually increased as the Sangguniang Bayan (SB) adds more money to the fund. Presently, the SB is composed of six T'bolis and two Ilonggos, with the mayor and vice-mayor also T'bolis.

Although a T'boli himself, Atam sees to it that the program is not biased to any tribe. Nor are there students whose parents are employees and come from well-to-do families. Kagawad Munday gives his assurance that they will closely monitor the program so that the people will say it's "*indi lang tikal* (not just a tall tale)."

By boosting their hopes through its community development program, the World Vision more than lights the torch to signal Afus' transformation. It provided a bridge between the people of Afus and God to commune and celebrate life at its fullest and, at the same time, preserving its tribal dignity. From its location on top of a mountain, surrounded by (though denuded by illegal logging) mountains, the setting is more than perfect.

Maria Cecil B. Laguardia is a communications specialist of the World Vision Development Foundation.

Ex-nun is Gloria's nemesis

(From page A1)

poration Philhealth.

Montayre is said to have offered to introduce Olaguer to then President Estrada's brothers, Paulino and Jesse Ejercito, ostensibly to speed up the deal with Philhealth, and to have coerced Olaguer to give her a 10-percent commission from the sale.

She has formally denied these.

But just last Monday, lawyer Antonio Betito of the Bicol Saro movement said Montayre had received huge sums of money from the Ramos administration for her projects in her home province of Albay.

Montayre's motives are now "mysterious" to the PCA's former allies in the Estrada-resign movement, her credibility doubted by those who claim to know how she "operated" during previous administrations.

Yet when the INQUIRER met her last Tuesday, Montayre exuded a confident, "I-told-you-so" bearing.

This was when the proposed coconut levy deal was reported to be dead in the water, three weeks after her group broke the story to the media and denounced the deal as a betrayal of the coconut farmers' interests.

The last time she felt this "vindicated," she said, was when the PCA, the first civil society group to call for Estrada's ouster, was rewarded for its efforts.

"I'm used to this bashing, this *pang-aapi at panggigipit* (oppression and harassment), stories being made up just to humiliate me," said Montayre of the flak she had drawn.

She noted that at the height of the Estrada-resign movement, the same set of traditional politicians now in power, including then Vice President Macapagal, merely "rode" on the PCA's call for reforms when it started to gain momentum.

In a four-page resumé she gave the INQUIRER, Montayre's socio-political activism appeared to have started when she was 20 and a nun at the Good Shepherd congregation, where she stayed in 1969-78.

Now married to businessman Nelson Montayre, she said it was during her stay in the nunnery that she had her first exposure to the urban and rural faces of poverty.

But this biographical tidbit is eventually dwarfed and obscured by her subsequent political activities.

Montayre's PCA initially surfaced as the Exclamation Point or Silent Protest Movement, which called for Estrada's resignation three months before then Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson rocked the boat with his "Juetengate."

Teddy Casiño, whose Bayan linked up with the PCA in the Estrada-resign drive, described Montayre as a "relentless campaigner" who had great stamina for building organizational networks.

"But a lot of people then were wary of joining the PCA because of its connections with Ramos and (then National Security Adviser Jose) Almonte," Casiño said. "That's why the PCA shifted its focus on getting the support of retired generals and military officials close to Ramos."

Montayre conceded that the PCA could not help being suspected as a Ramos outfit because its chair, Salvador Enriquez, was budget secretary in the Ramos Cabinet.

"That's why as much as possible we don't want Jun Enriquez to do the talking (in the media)," she said.

Casiño said that after Edsa II, "it's been a long time since we (Bayan) had an occasion to talk with them (the PCA)."

Asked how Bayan was taking Montayre's tirades against the administration, he said candidly: "We don't know now where she's coming from."

Casiño said that under the Estrada-resign movement, there was a "sharing" of information among the "anti" groups concerning allegations against the government. But the PCA has "practically been on its own ever since our communication lines were cut off," he said.

"My impression is that they (the PCA) are power brokers," Casiño added. "But we cannot see their endgame yet, what they are negotiating for. Their motivation is still somewhat mysterious."

Lesser known are Montayre's earlier attempts at being a politician herself. She ran for Albay governor in 1995 and as representative of the province's third district in 1987.

She was the national campaign manager of former Internal Revenue Commissioner Liwayway Vinzons Chato in the 2001 senatorial race.

Her resumé lists more than 50 entries on her involvement in national, regional or Albay-wide nongovernment organizations, mostly dealing with the poor and the religious.

In the private sector, in 1992 Montayre became the founding president of the Federation of Bicol Contractors, which worked for "reforms" in the construction industry and was instrumental in having then Albay Gov. Romeo Salalima and a public works regional director suspended for alleged corruption.

And while she has been identified with causes for the poor and the landless, Montayre is currently "administratrix" of an inherited 300-hectare coconut plantation "located in 17 barrios" in Guinobatan, Albay.

Does her being a coconut farm owner with 50 tenant-families under her management have something to do with her stand on the coconut levy issue?

Montayre quickly brushed aside this line of thought. She said she was a nun at the time her family-owned farm came under the implementation of the coconut levy, adding that "the boxes full of claim receipts which . . . we kept then were not revalidated"—and thus could not be used to make any claim on the multibillion-peso fund.

To Montayre, the coconut levy issue is just the first in a series of episodes wherein the PCA would serve as a "watchdog" *vis-à-vis* the Macapagal administration.

"We actually gave her up to six months from the time she assumed power in January," Montayre said. "We kept quiet at first, but we all know we have not seen her deliver the reforms she promised us."

Remember that Ms Macapagal came to power "not through the electoral process" but by way of "a gift from the people" at Edsa II, Montayre said.

It's not certain whether that's another threat from the feisty ex-nun.

But one thing is certain: She's not backing down from the powerful *colegiala* in Malacañang.

Peace with NDF seen

(From Page A1)

He said the protracted communist insurgency problem could be finally laid to rest within the new timetable if the two panels resume peace talks before or after Christmas.

He warned, however, that the recent move by the US government to include the NPA in a list of terrorist groups could affect the ambitious timetable.

President Macapagal-Arroyo said, however, the US move would not affect her agreement to an NDF offer of a Christmas ceasefire between Dec. 15 and Jan. 15 next year.

"We are a sovereign country, so it's really up to the NDF to show that they are sincere in wanting to have peace and they are not terrorists," she said.

The US recently included the NPA, the communist urban hit squad, the Alex Boncayao Brigade, and the Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom group in a list of "foreign terrorist organizations" compiled by the US State and Justice Departments.

The US will deport or deny entry to anyone suspected of being linked to any of 39 suspected terrorist organizations included in the list.

The US government has three such terrorist lists. The one compiled by the US Treasury Department includes the Abu Sayyaf kidnap group.

The US State Department has another list of "other terrorist groups."

No moral authority

Reacting to the US move, Luis Jalandoni, the chair of the communist peace panel, said the US had "no moral authority to brand various organizations as terrorists."

"The US government should be on top of that list," he said, citing the US atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and its "war of aggression" against Vietnam.

But he said the listing of the NPA would not affect the peace talks, noting that the list was not really new.

"The US had put the NPA on its list of terrorists years and years ago," he said.

Army and police officials in Central Luzon, however, welcomed the US move, calling it "quite significant."

Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, chief of the Army's Nueva Ecija-based 7th Infantry Division said the NPA's figuring in the US' new exclusion list would "hamper seriously" the communists' efforts to obtain foreign political funding and support.

But Carolina clarified that the Army had long considered the NPA as a "dissident terrorist group" so that there would be no change in the military campaign against the guerrillas.

Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, the police director for Central Luzon, said the US move "only confirmed how the police have long treated the NPAs—as terrorists."

De Venecia said he traveled to Utrecht for several hours last Nov. 30 to meet with the NDF leaders.

Negotiators

With him were chief government negotiator Silvestre Bello III and his deputy Silvestre Afable and presidential peace adviser Eduardo Ermita.

The next day, Dec. 1, De Venecia brought the members of the government and NDF panels to a meeting with Bondevik in Oslo.

Oslo hosted the last peace talks until the government unilaterally suspended the negotiations last June in protest against the assassination, allegedly by the NPA, of former Cagayan Rep. Rodolfo Aguinaldo and Quezon Rep. Marcial Punzalan.

"I invited both groups to join us in the visit to Oslo, and no less than the Prime Minister hosted our meeting in his office on a Saturday noon which seldom happens in Europe," De Venecia said.

He said he gave Bondevik a letter from Ms. Macapagal thanking him for hosting the peace talks.

Bondevik, he said, vowed to continue hosting the talks in Oslo "all the way to the first quarter of next year and beyond because now we believe we can significantly advance the peace process."

De Venecia said he expects Ermita and the government negotiators to immediately recommend to the President the resumption of peace talks.

More effective

He said the NDF leaders had formalized during their meeting their offer of an "extended Christmas cessation of hostilities" from Dec. 15 to Jan. 15.

De Venecia said the proposed 30-day ceasefire from Dec. 15 to Jan. 15 next year could pave the way for the release of four NPA captives—Sgt. Jeremias Roseto Jr. and his three companions—by January or February next year.

The Speaker said back-channeling talks were sometimes more effective than the "highly politicized, highly publicized panel discussions."

De Venecia admitted that the problem posed by the inclusion of the NPA in the US' terrorist list had been "anticipated."

"This will create some complications for the peace process but I am working on a formula (which) maybe I can announce in three days ... It could be a hindrance to the peace process but I believe we can resolve it," he said.

He said he was going to clear his formula with the President and the government panel first.

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Glum cops try to be merry

(From page A1)

to see the policemen even if they will be taking them away from their source of livelihood in the streets of the city.

"We have deployed more policemen in 32 malls and we will put up police assistance centers. Our policemen will be wearing a Santa Claus hat so the children will be happy. But these policemen are good," she said during the launching of the "Paskuhan ng mga Batang Pinoy (Christmas of the Filipino child)."

Under this joint project of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the PNP, policemen will take the street children off the streets and bring them to "Paskuhan booths" put up in certain strategic road intersections.

Safety

The DSWD's idea is for the children to beg from the safety of the Paskuhan booths and not weave in and out of traffic to beg from motorists.

Ms Macapagal said the Paskuhan booths will also serve as police assistance centers for shoppers who may be victimized by snatchers, pickpockets and petty criminals. She visited the booth located outside the SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

The DSWD said they have put up 25 booths along major thoroughfares in Quezon City, San Juan, Manila, Caloocan City, Parañaque City, Mandaluyong City and Pasay City.

The booths were put up in places where street children abound, such as business establishments near major thoroughfares, malls, churches and markets.

Ms Macapagal however also reminded the new police recruits to do their job properly.

"Here we will be testing the courage of our new recruits who are all college graduates. This prpject is what we call the Christmas package from the police. I don't mean giving your wives a Christmas package. You will be deployed in the malls to man our police assistance centers," she said.

Getting over gloom

Despite their jolly, red hats and the holiday dazzle at the office, top police officials remain glum. They have quite gotten over the fiasco in the investigation of the Nida Blanca murder.

"We have to highlight the Christmas spirit inside the camp," said PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Cresencio Maralit.

He, however, admitted that suspect Philip Medel's recantation of his earlier confession has somewhat dampened their spirits.

Morale affected

"We're a little bit downhearted because of what happened in the Medel case," Maralit said.

He added: "Even the morale of the investigators in the case was affected. Imagine they spent nights and days following up on this case . . ."

Police presented Medel to the media on Nov. 19, saying he had confessed to killing Blanca and had tagged her husband, Rod Lauren Strunk, as the brains.

But days later, he retracted his statement during the initial investigation of the case at the justice department, saying police tortured him into making the confession.

Still, Maralit said they would not let the unhappy "turn of events" put a damper on their celebration of Christmas inside the camp.

"There's nothing wrong here. We go on as usual with Christmas. We won't let one particular incident affect the overall morale of the entire PNP," he said.

Besides, Maralit said Task Force Marsha would press ahead with its probe even though the National Bureau of Investigation has been designated as the lead investigating agency.

"It's not the end of the road for Task Force Marsha. Their investigation is still ongoing," he said.

SPORTING Santa caps, cops who are part of the joint DILG/PNP/DSWD project, Police Assistance Center, are presented to President Macapagal.

EDWIN BACASMAS

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, December 9, 2001
2nd Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: **Is 11:1-10**

From the stump of Jesse a shoot will come forth;
from his roots a branch will grow and bear fruit.
The Spirit of the Lord will rest upon him –
a Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
a Spirit of counsel and power,
a Spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord.
Not by appearances will he judge,
nor by what is said must he decide,
but with justice he will judge the poor
and with righteousness decide for the meek.
Like a rod, his word will strike the oppressor,
and the breath of his lips slay the wicked.
Justice will be the girdle of his waist,
truth the girdle of his loins.
The wolf will dwell with the lamb,
the leopard will rest beside the kid,
the calf and the lion cub will feed together
and a little child will lead them.
Befriending each other, the cow and the bear
will see their young ones lie down together.
Like cattle, the lion will eat hay.
By the cobra's den the infant will play.
The child will put his hand into the viper's lair.
No one will harm or destroy over my holy mountain,
for as water fills the sea
the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord.

On that day the "Root of Jesse" will be raised as a signal for the nations. The people will come in search of him, thus making his dwelling place glorious.

2nd Reading: **Rom 15:4-9**

We know that whatever was written in the past was written for our instruction, for both perseverance and comfort given us by the Scripture sustain our hope. May God, the source of all perseverance and comfort, give to all of you to live in peace in Christ Jesus, that you may be able to praise in one voice God, Father of Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Welcome, then, one another, as Christ welcomed you for the glory of God. Look: Christ put himself at the service of the Jewish world to fulfill the promises made by God to their ancestors; here you see God's faithfulness. The pagans instead give thanks to God for his mercy, as Scripture says: *Because of that, I will sing and praise your name among the pagans.*

Gospel: **Mt 3:1-12**

In the course of time John the Baptist appeared in the desert of Judea and began to proclaim his message, "Change your ways, the Kingdom of heaven is now at hand!" It was about him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said, *A voice is shouting in the desert: prepare a way for the Lord; make his paths straight.*

John had a leather garment around his waist and wore a cloak of camel's hair; his food was locusts and wild honey. People came to him from Jerusalem, from all Judea and from the whole Jordan valley, and they were baptized by him in the Jordan as they confessed their sins.

When he saw several Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he baptized, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who told you that you could escape the punishment that is to come? Let it be seen that you are serious in your conversion, and do not think: We have Abraham for our father. I tell you that God can raise children for Abraham from these stones! The axe is already laid to the roots of the trees; any tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown in the fire.

I baptize you in water for a change of heart, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than me; indeed I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and fire. He has the winnowing fan in his hand and he will clear out his threshing floor. He will gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn in everlasting fire."

Commentary

In the freeways of modern cities we must drive extra carefully and take the correct lane at the right time. If we make one mistake in taking the adequate exit or taking the wrong lane we shall be forced to drive many kilometers, diverting us from our destination. It is not always easy to turn around and get back to the right road. John the Baptist said something similar: "Change your ways, the kingdom of heaven is at hand." It is relatively easy to err in life. There is no turning back. We must make the right decisions at the right time not to lose sight of the One who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CIVIL LAW (SPECIAL CONTRACTS: SALES)—Contract of sale— The requisites for considering a contract of sale with a right to repurchase as an equitable mortgage are (1) that the parties entered into a contract denominated as a contract of sale and (2) that their intention was to secure an existing debt by way of mortgage. A contract of sale with right to repurchase gives rise to the presumption that it is an equitable mortgage in any of the following cases: (1) when the price of a sale with a right to repurchase is unusually inadequate; (2) when the vendor remains in possession as lessee or otherwise; (3) when, upon or after the expiration of the right to repurchase, another instrument extending the period of redemption or granting a new period is executed; (4) when the purchase retains for himself a part of the purchase price; (5) when the vendor binds himself to pay the taxes on the thing sold; (6) in any other case where it may be fairly inferred that the real intention of the parties is that the transaction shall secure the payment of a debt or the performance of any other obligation. In case of doubt, a contract purporting to be a sale with right to repurchase shall be construed as an equitable mortgage. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Mendoza, Second Division, Martinez v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 123547, May 21, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Who cares about youth elections?

(From page A1)

"The first time the SK elections were postponed, there was one generation of the youth who missed the opportunity to be SK members," said Mabel Villarica-Mamba, presidential adviser on youth affairs and chair of the National Youth Commission (NYC).

Mamba said most of the six NYC commissioners personally favor the holding of SK elections as scheduled next year.

NYC Commissioner-at-large Paolo Benigno Aquino confirms that the "average age" of incumbent SKs is now 24, most of them married and concerned with their own careers and livelihood.

"The election should push through because the current batch has already been extended in 1999 and is now overages," Aquino said.

Rep. Ace Barbers, chair of the House committee on accounts, said probably about 90 percent of the SK members are over the age limit set forth in Republic Act No. 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991.

RA 7160 mandated that every barangay should have an SK, elected by an assembly of youth living in the barangay, 15 to 21 years of age, and registered in the barangay list.

A youth who is 21 years old on the day of the election is allowed to run and serve his or her full term unless removed for cause.

Aquino said that during the Pambansang Ugong ng Kabataan, a national youth consultative assembly convened by the NYC and the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the SK emerged as the "top concern of the youth."

"Many see the need for reforms in the SK," Aquino said.

No longer qualified

Palawan Rep. Abraham Mitra, who had expressed concern about the uncertainty of the SK elections being held next year, also noted the need for elections.

"Many SK leaders have matured in their positions, their ages no longer qualify them for membership in the body. In many areas, clearly a changing of the guards is needed," Mitra said in a recent statement.

Richard Alvin Nalupta, SK National Federation president, said that during its convention last October, a majority of the SK federation heads voted in a straw ballot to extend the elections.

Life after SK

Nalupta said he did not participate in the straw ballot so as not to preempt the results, but said that he personally believes the elections should push through.

"Personally, I'm pushing for elections next year so that there will be new blood in the SK. We (incumbents) should now graduate. There's life after SK," said Nalupta, who sacrificed two years of his law study in UP for the SK.

Elected in 1996, Nalupta is now 25 years old. He has been able to institute reforms in the management and utilization of SK funds and come up with the KK and SK constitution and by-laws.

Raymund Fernandez, SK chair of Barangay Highway Hills in Mandaluyong City who is hailed as one of the best SKs in the country, also pushes for the elections next year.

"Our projects may be good but the mandate belongs to the youth," said Fernandez, who founded a physical rehabilitation clinic that gives charity treatments to disabled clients in the community and referrals from big hospitals.

North Cotabato Rep. Lala Santos, who sprang from the SK ranks, also bats for elections next year.

"We should have the elections next year not because the present SK members are not good but they are over 21 now. The SK could also use some fresh ideas," Santos said.

Camillia Trinidad-Orense, SK chair of Barangay San Lorenzo in Makati City, echoes the sentiment of the majority of SK members who want to remain in office.

"To proceed with the elections is OK but it would be better for us (to postpone it) to fully realize our plans for our respective communities," Orense said.

Orense said some SK members are still in the midst of important projects that they would want to leave behind as their legacy to the youth.

Orense said she and some like-minded SKs have no problem juggling time between their studies, families or careers and the SK.

"This is the life that I want," said Orense, whose family has been in public service. Sen. Joker Arroyo is a maternal grandfather.

Nalupta said those who voted for postponement of the elections during the SK straw balloting cited the lack of funds and the absence of a Commission on Elections resolution necessary to prepare for the campaign.

"But there is also a majority who did not make a stand because for them, it's only Congress which can determine that," Nalupta said.

3 bills

Three bills are pending in the House seeking to postpone the barangay and/or SK elections from May 2002 to May 2005.

Rep. Manuel Ortega cites the "serious financial and economic difficulties buffeting our country." He said that the barangay and SK elections would cost P2 billion.

Ortega further proposed that this fund instead be used for the Comelec's computerization program "thus ensuring fair and accurate voting and speedy counting in the elections of our national and local officials."

Rep. Herminio Teves made the same proposal in his bill. He said the budget for the barangay and SK elections, which he said would cost P1.8 billion, should be used for the Comelec computerization which he said needs P3.5 billion.

Teves noted that those who clamor for a change in leadership in the barangay should resort to the system of recall.

Rep. Isidoro Real said holding the barangay and SK elections next year would be "ill-timed" because the country has just been through the May 14 elections this year.

He said postponing the elections would "provide all of us the much-needed space and time to concentrate on working to resolve the multifarious problems the country is facing today."

Critics of the bills see a political reason for proposals to hold the elections in 2004.

Nalupta however thinks that the funding issue is not a valid reason for seeking postponement of the SK elections.

"I think that is moot and academic because there is a DBM (Department of Budget and Management) opinion that the funds for the SK elections would not come from the general appropriations but from the funds of the SK," he said.

He said this was the opinion given him by Eduardo Opida, director of the DBM Legal and Legislative Service.

Nalupta even offered to go to the Comelec to point this out so that it could already issue the resolution giving the go-signal for the elections.

Carlos Tan Derecho, director of the National Barangay Operations Office of the Department of Interior and Local Government, supports Nalupta's view.

"There is a provision that the funds for the election of the SK would also come from their own funds," Derecho said.

Derecho said the department supports the pronouncement made recently by President Macapagal to leave to Congress the decision on whether the SK elections would be deferred.

"But personally, I believe it's better for us to have the elections as scheduled. They (SK members) should have a mandate from the people," Derecho said.

NYC's Aquino issued a call for the youth to participate in the elections, either as members of the KK in every barangay or as SK candidates.

"All of those who are there now (SK) would have to go. We're looking at a whole new generation of SK members," Aquino said.

But for that to happen, the national government should make its position clear and exert the political will to comply with the constitutionally-mandated elections for its youth government.

WWF fighting a different kind of terrorism

(From page A1)

In a microcosm of such cooperation, Martin was in Manila recently to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Asian Development Bank. His trip was hosted by WWF-Philippines.

But what does this agreement mean to the average Filipino?

"An MOU is essentially an intention of two institutions to do something together," Martin said, adding:

"That may not mean much to a poor Filipino fisherman, but the spirit of the MOU is precisely to change the framework conditions for those people who directly depend on the natural resources we are all concerned about and intend to protect better.

"Our MOU may not affect life overnight, but we can work together for a common aim."

The outcome of such cooperation is what Martin, a doctor of wildlife biology from the University of Zurich, calls "the effect of leverage and multiplication."

"One of the WWF's unique contributions as an organization is that we have been able to engage other sectors of society most effectively—business, industry and government," he said. "We have thought of other ways of multiplying the conservation effect through funding mechanisms, debt-for-nature swaps, market mechanisms."

Independence

Indeed, the WWF has a history of working closely with big business and institutions such as the World Bank to implement realistic projects—for example, the certification of environmentally sound marine and forest products—without compromising its independence.

"It's hard to change minds, as some corporations are just looking for what we call a 'greenwash' or a nice environmental PR exercise," Martin said. "We have to make sure that they really walk the talk, that they live up to their promises. That is why we always reserve the right to criticize, no matter how we cooperate with business and industry."

The situation becomes unique in the Philippines, where environmental destruction is just one among many national problems.

The Philippines is distinguished by its marine biodiversity, among the most unique in the world, because of its location in the Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion, a triangle of life that also covers Indonesia and Malaysia.

"In contrast to other regions, here you have a long tradition of NGO work and a deep understanding of the linkage between human life and nature," noted Martin, who has spent some 30 years working in national parks and tropical rain forests in Central India and Africa.

"Some of the most sophisticated systems of agro-forestry also evolved in the Philippines," he added. "On the other hand, Manila alone emits about as much carbon dioxide as the whole of Switzerland, so you need some work there!"

Harmony

Martin stressed the need for a developing country to reconcile between "realist" and "fundamental" environmentalism, and to deem as irrelevant a purely conservationist viewpoint.

"The WWF's mission is harmony between man and nature," he said. "We are not a fundamental environmental organization that wants protection at all costs. I cannot think of a single good conservation project that would not benefit the livelihood of a community in one way or another."

He admitted that there were "bad examples" where local communities did not benefit from or had been shut out of protected areas in the name of conservation.

"We always try and look through the lens of those communities most affected by what we are doing," he said, and lauded the efforts of WWF-Philippines, which successfully established several conservation projects such as one in the Turtle Islands by closely involving the local people and extending livelihood aid.

Challenge

The biggest challenge facing the WWF—along with the rest of the world—is the growing pressure of overpopulation, according to Martin.

"The human footprint is still increasing, and over the next 50 years the population will probably triple," he warned. "That's compounded by climate change, which affects every single thing we do these days, and which will sooner or later show in economic terms."

He echoed the disappointment of many environmental groups in political leaders "who have not yet grasped the extent of the threat," and in corporations "that do not understand in the long run that investing in saving energy and reducing carbon dioxide emission is economically sound."

Martin, who described his own job as "impossible," travels about six months a year from his base in Switzerland to make sure that WWF offices in some 100 countries are on the right strategic track.

The Zurich-born Martin dove into his first conservation project—to save the Barasingha deer in Central India—when he was fresh out of university in the 1960s. He was appointed director general of WWF in 1993, but still finds time to rock-climb and ski when he's home with his wife and four children.

"Attitude is an important factor," he said of the conservationist mindset needed to win this backyard war. "Mothers should encourage curiosity in children. People say they love nature, but they have to be curious about how things work. This is where it starts. Then you realize that it no longer makes sense to throw all the garbage into the same bin when some of it can be used again."

It is also Martin's job to keep the network of worldwide conservation cooperation alive and kicking.

"A network is only as great as its individual parts," he pointed out. "If it's fragmented, nothing will happen."

Negros, Lhuillier dispute South title

FERRIOLS

GAME TODAY (USLS, Bacolod City)
5 p.m.—Cebuana Lhuillier vs Negros

By Roy Luarca

THEY may have been stretched to the limit, but the Negros Slashers remain confident of winding up the Southern Conference champion today.

That's because the Slashers will be on familiar territory when they clash with the Cebuana Lhuillier Gems in the deciding Game Five of their title series in the MBA Second Phase.

Beaten by the Gems, 93-85, in Game Four on Wednesday night, the Slashers are aching to exact revenge and bring joy to their provincemates in the 5 p.m. encounter at the University of St. La Salle Gym in Bacolod City.

Of course, it wouldn't be an easy task as the Gems are also determined to snare the title and have proven in Game One that they can beat the Slashers even in Bacolod, 86-84.

Whoever wins between the Slashers and the Gems would barge into the best-of-five national finals against the waiting LBC Batangas Blades.

. The Blades subdued the Andok's San Juan Knights, 88-83, also Wednesday to clinch the Northern Conference crown in Game Four, 3-1. Having emerged as the elimination round topnotcher, the Blades will enjoy the homecourt edge be it against the Slashers or the Knights.

Based on the past four games, the Slashers-Gems tussle should be a thriller. Only Game Two was decided by twin digits with the Slashers winning, 103-88, at the USLS Gym.

For the Slashers to prevail, they must jump the gun on the Gems, who have done the same to them in Games Three and Four in Cebu City.

As usual, the Negrenses are expected to come in droves in support of the Slashers, who enjoy the biggest following in the league this season.

Negros coach Robert Sison will again bank on John Ferriols, Johnedel Cardel, Dennis Madrid, Reynel Hugnatan and Cid White in their bid to cop their third conference title.

Other Slashers who can be depended upon are Ruben dela Rosa, Leo Bat-og and Jomar Tierra.

For his part, Gems mentor Tonichi Yturri will draw firepower from Peter Naron, Stephen Padilla, Homer Se, Al Solis and Joey Santamaria.

The Slashers-Gems tussle, originally slated Friday but had to be reset due to Typhoon Quedan, will be telecast live over National Broadcasting Network Channel 4.

Kings hand Lakers 2nd loss; Raptors prevail

SACRAMENTO, California—Peja Stojakovic scored 15 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter, and Mike Bibby had 21 points and six assists as the Sacramento Kings handed the Los Angeles Lakers their second loss of the season after a 97-91 victory in the NBA Friday night.

In the teams' second meeting of the season - the first at Arco Arena since the Lakers swept Sacramento out of the playoffs last spring - the Kings ended the Lakers' nine-game winning streak.

Six Kings scored in double figures, and a group defensive effort made Kobe Bryant relatively ineffective - even while Shaquille O'Neal had another outstanding game with 31 points and 16 rebounds.

The Kings led 88-77 with 1:46 to play before the Lakers began fouling on every possession. The strategy allowed Los Angeles to cut the lead to 94-91 on Bryant's jumper with 17 seconds left, but Doug Christie and Stojakovic hit late free throws to seal it.

Raptors 98, Nuggets 96

Vince Carter scored 42 points, including a 3-pointer with 1.4 seconds left in overtime, as the Toronto Raptors beat the Denver Nuggets 98-96.

Carter also tied a career-high with 15 rebounds Friday for the Raptors, who had lost their previous two games.

Nick Van Exel scored all 27 of his points in the second half and overtime for the Nuggets, who have lost seven of eight.

George McCloud's off-balance 3-pointer with 35 seconds left in overtime gave Denver a 94-93 lead. Carter followed with a driving layup, but Ryan Bowen made a short jumper with 5.4 seconds left, giving Denver a one-point lead.

Carter then made his long 3-pointer, sending the crowd into a frenzy.

Spurs 86, 76ers 76

In San Antonio, seldom-used Charles Smith made three 3-pointers during a critical stretch of the fourth quarter to help the San Antonio Spurs fend off the depleted Philadelphia 76ers 86-76.

Smith, who had appeared in only five of the Spurs' first 17 games, finished with a season-high 20 points to lead all scorers. Tim Duncan added 18 points and nine rebounds, while David Robinson and Antonio Daniels each had12 points.

The 76ers played without guard Allen Iverson (sprained thumb) and Derrick Coleman (hyperextended knee). Speedy Claxton, starting in place of Iverson, led Philadelphia with 19 points.

Celtics 109, Suns 102, OT

In Boston, Paul Pierce scored 26 points and Eric Williams added a season-high 15 as the Boston Celtics won their sixth straight game, beating the Phoenix Suns in overtime.

The winning streak is the longest for the Celtics since they won six consecutive games from Jan. 23-Feb. 4. The last time the team won seven straight was 1994.

Stephon Marbury scored 22 points to lead the Suns. Tony Delk added a season-high 20 points while Rodney Rogers and Shawn Marion each finished with 17.

Nets 96, Cavaliers 84

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Kerry Kittles 23 points and New Jersey Nets avoided a letdown after their big win two days earlier over Phoenix by beating the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Kenyon Martin added 14 of his 19 points in the second half as the Nets improved to 12-6, their best since joining the NBA in 1976.

Pacers 98, Bulls 83

In Indianapolis, Jermaine O'Neal had 22 points and 11 rebounds to lead Indiana over Chicago, keeping the Bulls winless on the road after 11 games.

It was the fifth double-double in eight games for O'Neal and his ninth of the season. Rookie guard Jamaal Tinley had his seventh double-double for Indiana with 18 points and 10 assists.

Jalen Rose, Reggie Miller and reserve Al Harrington scored 15 apiece for Indiana, which defeated the Bulls for the seventh consecutive time.

Chicago also had five players in double figures, led by Marcus Fizer with 19 and Brad Miller with 13.

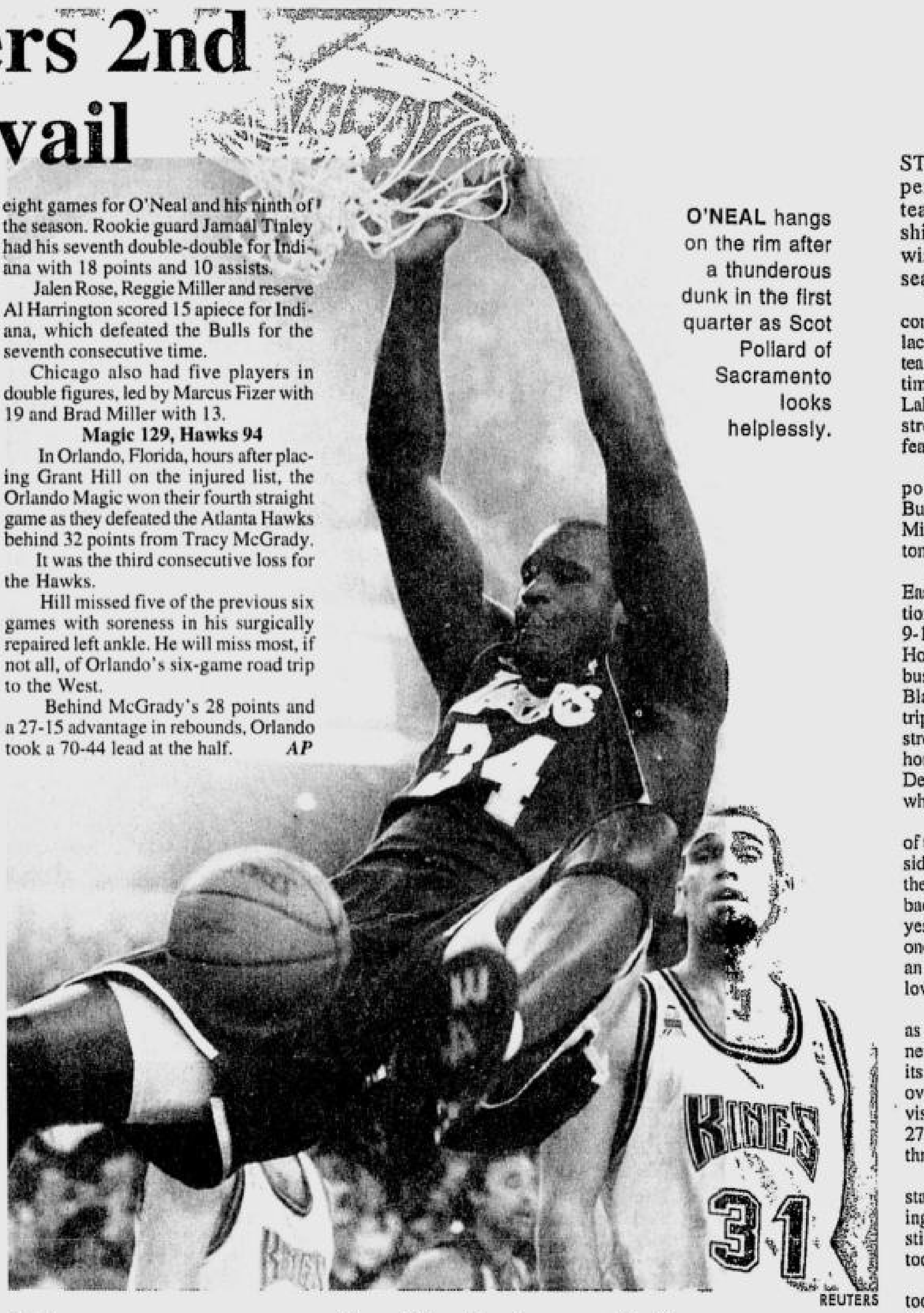
Magic 129, Hawks 94

In Orlando, Florida, hours after placing Grant Hill on the injured list, the Orlando Magic won their fourth straight game as they defeated the Atlanta Hawks behind 32 points from Tracy McGrady.

It was the third consecutive loss for the Hawks.

Hill missed five of the previous six games with soreness in his surgically repaired left ankle. He will miss most, if not all, of Orlando's six-game road trip to the West.

Behind McGrady's 28 points and a 27-15 advantage in rebounds, Orlando took a 70-44 lead at the half. *AP*



O'NEAL hangs on the rim after a thunderous dunk in the first quarter as Scot Pollard of Sacramento looks helplessly.

REUTERS

Hot, cold NBA teams

NBA NOTES

Henry Liao

STREAKY has been the performance of various teams—NBA championship contenders or otherwise—at this point of the season.

Winning and losing have come in streaks, indicating a lack of consistency by these teams. Only the incredible two-time reigning NBA titlist LA Lakers have not had any losing streak (two consecutive defeats or more) thus far.

Blowing hot and cold are the powerhouse Milwaukee Bucks, Philadelphia 76ers and Minnesota Timberwolves and the playoff hopeful Boston Celtics and Houston Rockets.

The Bucks, seeking to topple the 76ers from the Eastern Conference throne with the free-agent acquisition of All-Start forward Anthony Mason, raced to a 9-1 record, the franchise's best start since 1979-80. However, the Suds City squad subsequently was ambushed by the Lakers, Phoenix Suns, Portland Trail Blazers and Seattle Supersonics in a four-game road trip to the West Coast from Nov. 27-Dec. 2. The slide stretched to five games when Milwaukee dropped a home decision to the resurging New York Knicks on Dec. 4. The Bucks (10-6) finally broke the losing spell when they whipped visiting Toronto two days later.

Philadelphia dropped five straight games at the start of the season with defending NBA MVP Allen Iverson sidelined by a shoulder injury. Upon Iverson's return, the 76ers captured seven games in a row before losing back-to-back to Toronto and Washington. Going into yesterday's road encounter with San Antonio, Philly once again owned a three-game losing string, including an embarrassing 93-87 home reversal at the hands of lowly Memphis on Dec. 2.

Like Milwaukee, Minnesota got off to a 9-1 start as the Timberwolves befulled the opposition with their newly allowed matchup zone. The club later pushed its record to 10-2 on Nov. 24 following a home victory over Midwest Division nemesis San Antonio. Then a visit to Seattle, LA Clippers and LA Lakers from Nov. 27-Dec. 1 proved disastrous as the Wolves dropped three successive assignments.

Minnesota, reeling off from a shooting slump by star Kevin Garnett, is back on the winning track, having won its last two games and carrying a 12-5 record—still the best start in franchise history—going into today's home encounter with floundering Houston.

Meanwhile, the much-improved Boston Celtics took a five-game winning streak into yesterday's home contest against Phoenix, which saw its own five-game winning skein snapped in a Dec. 5 road loss to New Jersey.

Before getting into their current winning act, the Celts (10-6), who were just half a game behind the Nets (11-6) in the Atlantic Division race before the match against the Suns, had lost four straight games.

Houston (7-13) travels to Minnesota today (Manila time) looking to shake off an eight-game losing streak. The Rockets have been without star guard Steve Francis in seven of those eight losses, including the last six. The 6-3 Francis is out four to six weeks after rupturing the plantar fascia in his left foot in a Nov. 25 road contest against the Clippers.

Swede scores tennis sweep

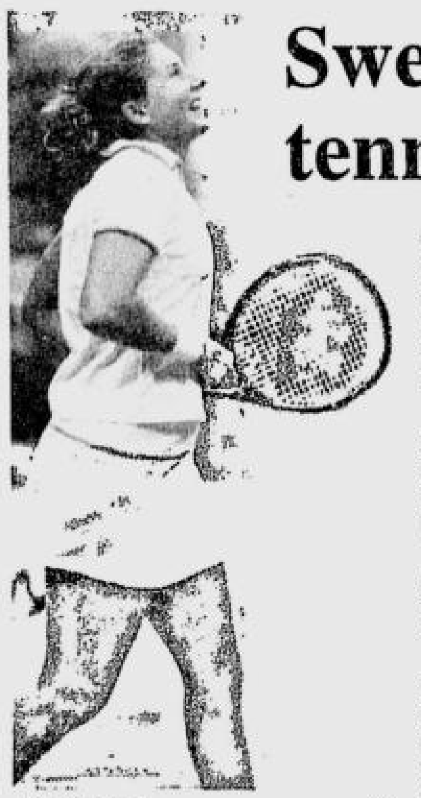
THIRD seed Daniel Andersson of Sweden took the limelight by sweeping the two-leg US$15,000 Tru-flex ITF Philippines Men's Futures tennis tournament at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Armed with a big serve and a steady baseline game, the 24-year-old netter from Stockholm defeated fifth seed Benjamin Cassaigne of France, 6-2, 6-4, for his fifth title.

"I played great today. I served well and returned well," said the world's No. 387 Andersson, who also won in Florida, California and Jamaica.

"After winning the first leg title and reaching the finals again, I was confident of winning again, which I did. The postponement of the matches last Thursday also gave me time to rest," added Andersson.

The Swede earned a total of US$3,900 in prize money and 24 ATP points in the event supported by the ITF Grand Slam Development Fund, Tru-flex Tennis Court Surfacing, Philippine Sports Commission, Viva Mineral Water, Manila Midtown Hotel and official ball Wilson.



INJURED AP

Monica Seles, shown in file photo above, and her mother were treated for minor injuries after a car accident near Sarasota, western, Florida on Wednesday. Seles' sports utility vehicle collided with a pickup truck driven by a woman whom police named as Cynthia Baumann.

Go seeks inquiry

GO Teng Kok, president of the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association, yesterday sought an inquiry with the international cycling federation to prove his claim that the Philippine Olympic Committee tried to railroad its decision regarding the Philippine Amateur Cycling Association's leadership problems.

He said the POC has made a bad precedent by claiming that quarelling cycling officials have already patched up their differences when the truth was the Olympic body simply made a "short cut" by recognizing Ponciano Regalado as Paca president and contending party Ramoncito Durano as chair.

"This could set a bad precedent where any ranking POC official can write any international federation and make false claims in behalf of the NSA concerned," said Go.

Tyson cancels fight vs Mercer, says he wants to take out Lewis

NEW YORK— Saying he wants to take Lennox Lewis out, Mike Tyson Friday canceled his January 19 fight with Ray Mercer.

Tyson and Mercer were supposed to meet in a pay-per-view bout between former heavyweight champions, but the remainder of the card and venue had not yet been finalized.

As the number one contender to Lewis' World Boxing Council and International Boxing Federation belts, Tyson decided to prepare himself for a marquee match with his English counterpart.

"This is a business, and I'm sure Ray understands why I need to take Lennox out now," Tyson said in a statement.

One of the reasons may have been a lawsuit Lewis filed on Tuesday in New York to have Tyson drop the Mercer fight or have the WBC remove him from the mandatory challenger's position.

Whatever Lewis' strategy, the suit may have been enough for Tyson to change his plans.

"The heavyweight championship is my destiny, and I need those belts on my waist again," said Tyson, who last held a title in 1996 and last fought for one against Evander Holyfield in 1997. *AFP*

Dacanay smashes swim mark

By Senen Bravo

SWIMMING ace Luica Dacanay clocked 29.93 seconds in the 50-m butterfly to smash her Philippine record of 30.23 in the recent 4th Philippine Amateur Swimming Association (Pasa) National Age Group Swimming Championship at the Panaad Swimming Complex in Bacolod City.

Dacanay thus became the first Filipina swimmer to go under 30 seconds.

Dacanay, a high school student at St. Scholastica's College, also owns the RP mark in the 50m backstroke which she set last year in Bacolod. She scooped 11 golds in 13 events to rule the 15-17 age-group and power the PCA Stingrays to victory with 41 golds in the team event of the Bacolod meet.

"My shoulder therapy paid off," said Dacanay.

Meanwhile, SEAG silver medalist Jenny Guerrero kept the Alabang Gators going by capturing five golds.

Others who earned automatic berths for next year's competitions abroad were (15-17) Robie Rivero, Jonathan Villagracia, Louie Marquez, Benjie Uy, Evan Grabador; (13-14) Michael Danila, Mac Frigillana, Nicole Santiago, Gem Ong, Marinela Arabejo, Roy Navarro, Bonus Bordado; (12-13) Marichi Gandiongco and Alister Kennedy.

Runnex exec runs at UP Diliman

RUNNEX will hold its 10K Classic Excecutive Run on Dec. 16 at 6:30 a.m. at the UP Diliman Campus.

Sponsored by Pharmaton, the 10K and 5K runs will highlight the 18th anniversary of the Executive Runners Club (Runnex) Philippines Inc.

According to Runnex president Dr. Angelito Duran, the races are limited to executives, professionals, businessmen and members of the officers corps, AFP and PNP, Captain and above, 29 years old and above. Interested parties may contact Runnex Secretariat, Dr. Duran, tel. No. 248-0288; FM Ringor Engineering, Mary Anne Ringor, at 364-6201 or 364-6232; Pol de Leon at 924-2447; and Lulu Bercades at 371-4445.

Last day for submission of entries is on Dec. 12.

San Andres 2nd in Asian 'moto'

KENNETH "Wonder Boy" San Andres of the Philippines made his country proud by finishing second overall in the final moto of the Little Stars category of the five-leg 2001 FIM Asian Supercross Championships recently at the Thailand International Motocross Track.

The second generation rider displayed uncanny skill in riding his 65cc Kawasaki over the highly technical track to join two Thai riders, winner Kritsad Boonwatee of Veloil Honda Nitiyonmotor and third placer Noppol Siriapaporn of Veloil Yamaha in the podium.

Caltex Revtex's Glenn Aguilar, the reigning national rider of the year and Philippine bet in the Pro Category, finished the series in fifth place overall, similarly a great accomplishment considering the huge 70-rider field in the class.

FIM UAM Motocross Commission president and project director Stephan "Macky" Carapiet of the Philippines congratulated the participating riders and teams from Japan, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand, China and the Philippines for a successful series and for being ambassadors of goodwill for the FIM and motocross.

Carapiet, likewise, promised the participants a bigger event next year in line with the recent approval by the FIM of the Intercontinental Championships wherein the best riders from Oceania and Asia will compete.

Ken Falco, Namssa president, was elated with the prolific performance of the two riders and congratulated them upon their return. "The performance of Aguilar and San Andres leaves no doubt about the Filipinos' ability to excel in this exciting sports," remarked Falco.

Namssa vice president Arthur Valdez saw the Philippines' participation in the recently concluded event and the club's affiliation with the Asian FIM body as a first step to bigger things. "Our FIM affiliation is in itself an opportunity to showcase our riders, the coutnry and its people," related Valdez. "The country, its places and the corporate sponsors will get tremendous media mileage since major sports channels will be there to cover the event," he added.

The Namssa is affiliated with the Federation Internationale de Motocycliste FIM Suisse, the world governing body which has jurisdiction over all motorcycle activities, motorcycle sports and events. Namssa is likewise affiliated with the Asian Motorcycle Touring Association, the Philippine Olympic Committee and the Philippines Sports Commission.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled By
Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA Inside Stuff at 7:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

NBA Jam at 12:30 p.m. on NBN 4

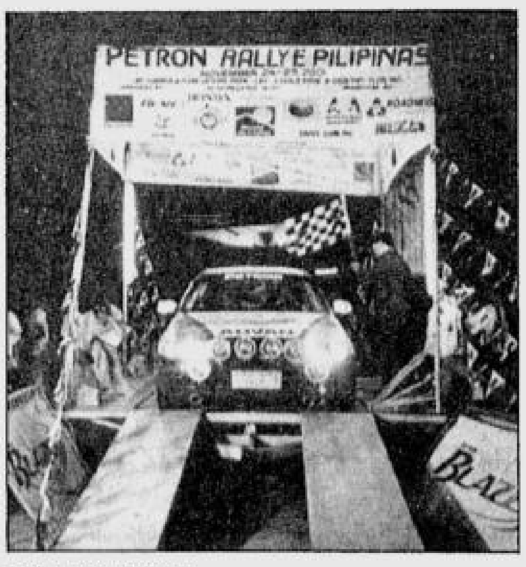
US NCAA – Memphis Tigers vs Mississippi Rebels at 2 p.m. (r), Villanova Wildcats vs Temple Owls at 4 p.m., Florida Gators vs South Florida Bulls at 6 p.m. on ESPN

NBA - Indiana Pacers vs New York Knicks at 9:10 p.m. on NBN 4

This Week in the NBA tomorrow at 12:30 a.m. on CNN

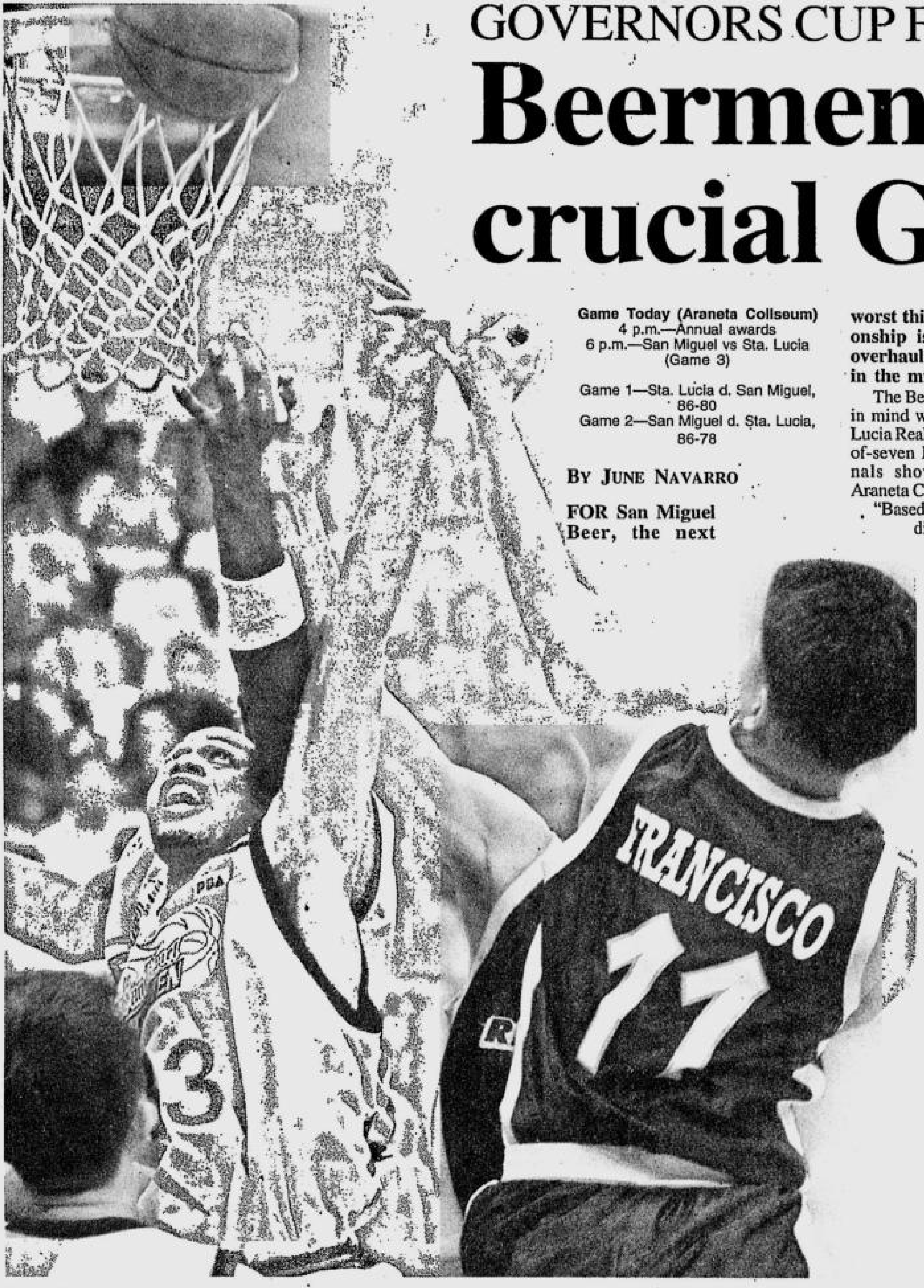
GOLF: Holden Australian Open Golf Championship, Day Three at 1:30 p.m. (r - 10 p.m.) on Star Sports

Omega Hong Kong Open Highlights at 9 p.m. on Star Sports



RALLY BETS

Felix Mariñas and co-driver Charlie Cruz are flagged off during the Petron Rally Pilipinas held recently at the Eagle Ridge Golf & Country Club and Saddle & Clubs Leisure Park in Cavite. Mariñas and Cruz finished sixth overall.



SAN Miguel Beer's Lamont Strothers (left) and Gerard Franciso of Sta. Lucia Realty dispute ball possession while Danny Ildefonso (foreground) looks on during Game 2 of their title series Friday night. San Miguel won, 86-78. ERNIE SARMIENTO

GOVERNORS CUP FINALS

Beermen, Realtors eye crucial Game 3 victory

Game Today (Araneta Coliseum)
4 p.m.—Annual awards
6 p.m.—San Miguel vs Sta. Lucia (Game 3)

Game 1—Sta. Lucia d. San Miguel, 86-80
Game 2—San Miguel d. Sta. Lucia, 86-78

By June Navarro

FOR San Miguel Beer, the next worst thing to losing a championship is the predicament of overhauling a two-game deficit in the midst of a title series.

The Beermen will try to keep this in mind when they clash with Sta. Lucia Realty in Game 3 of their best-of-seven PBA Governors Cup Finals showdown tonight at the Araneta Coliseum.

"Based from experience, it's very difficult to come back from a 1-2 deficit. If that happens, you have to win three straight to take home the championship," said San Miguel Beer coach Jong Uichico, who is now in his seventh championship since 1999.

The Beermen averted a two-game setback after beating the Realtors in Game 2, 86-78, Friday night to level the series at one game apiece. The Realtors opened the title fight with an 86-80 win last Wednesday.

Prior to the exciting San Miguel-Sta. Lucia face-off, the annual awarding ceremonies will take place where San Miguel's Danny Ildefonso is a cinch to run away with the season MVP plum for the second straight year.

Barring any final-minute trouble, Barangay Ginebra's Mark Caguioa, one of the PBA's rising stars, is expected to bring home the Rookie of the Year award while Dennis Espino and Marlou Aquino, both from Sta. Lucia, contend for the Player of the Conference Award.

Gaining the psychological edge, the Beermen will again try to apply gang rebounding and exploit some mismatches especially on the wings.

For the second straight game, the Beermen outrebounded the taller Realtors, 43-39, creating a lot of possessions that gave them enough chances to score.

Danny Seigle was one of its beneficiaries as he totally outfoxed Gerard Francisco, who allowed the 6-foot-5 swingman to shoot from the perimeter with impunity in the last quarter that told heavily on the Realtors.

"I think all the games will be close. Because if the succeeding games are not close, then it's gonna be Sta. Lucia," said Uichico. "But if things work according to plan, then San Miguel has a chance."

Annual awards

VIVA Vintage Sports will telecast the Old Spice PBA Annual Awards "live" starting at 4 p.m. today on IBC-13, right before Game Three of the PBA Governors Cup Finals. Fan interest is high because mythical team selections will be virtual shoo-ins to the two PBA "tryout teams" that will vie for slots in the national team to next year's Asian Games South Korea.

While MVP statistical leaders Danny Ildefonso, Danny Seigle and Olsen Racela of San Miguel Beer appear certain to make the Mythical Five, interest center on who among forwards Dennis Espino, Davonn Harp, ali Peek and Rudy Hatfield will get the nod. The Mythical Team and other awards are selected based on statistics and the votes of media, players and a five-man committee composed of the PSC.COOP, PBA press corps and photographers and Viva Vintage Sports.

David on trading block

PLAYMAKER Bal David of Barangay Ginebra is the newest kid on the trading block.

His playing time this season almost slashed into half, David wanted to be shipped to another PBA team—either to Alaska or Sta. Lucia Realty—which is willing to acquire his services.

David's minutes dwindled as rookie Mark Caguioa and Jayjay Helterbrand were used more often to complement Ginebra's frontline composed of Jun Limpot, Banjo Calpito and Ronald Magtulis.

And with the latest acquisition of Eric Menk from Tanduay, David's playing time is expected to negotiate a downward trend.

"Caguioa and Helterbrand took away precious minutes from Bal. It would make Bal's performance rusty as time goes by," said a dependable source close to the former UST hotshot.

The source added that no PBA ballclub has yet shown interest on the 5-foot-10 cat-quick guard "because teams would want to see the aspirants in annual draft next year first."

David still has a one-year live contract with the Kings and whichever team grabs the prized playmaker will have to assume the provisions and perks of the covenant.

Meanwhile, Welcoat team owner Raymond Yu yesterday dispelled rumors that Welcoat management is eyeing Tanduay's franchise for a possible stint in the PBA.

Tanduay was reported to be on the verge of disbanding after the Rhummasters gave up their marquee players Friday in exchange for future draft picks.

"At the moment, we have other priorities and acquiring Tanduay's franchise to gain entry into the PBA is the least of our concerns," said Yu, whose Paintmasters have a pending application in the PBA.

June Navarro

Eagle Ridge rules Sta. Lucia Tour

EAGLE Ridge made sure the Sta. Lucia Cup stayed in its territory, piling up just enough points in yesterday's final round to secure the overall team victory even as a lady entry slipped through with a spectacular hole-in-one in the Sta. Lucia Golf Tour 2001.

Far ahead of the pack going into the 36-hole final leg at the Aoki and Faldo courses, the Eagle Ridge contingent once more banked on its lower division teams to neutralize the overwhelming advantage of Orchard in the centerpiece Group I category.

Eagle tallied 3,489 points and won pulling way.

Ma. Victoria Ignacio, a member of the Eagle Ridge, came up with the only hole-in-one of the series, acing the 119-yard third hole of the Faldo course with a Nancy Lopez 5-iron and a Lady Cobra ball.

Ignacio went home with a Lady Omega watch worth more than P100,000 for her feat.

Royale Tagaytay actually kept the momentum of their strong showing in the third leg in Rancho Palos Verdes in Davao by winning two leg individual awards, the Class B and Class C, through Aristedes Velasco and Manuel Maglabe, respectively. Royale also captured the Group III overall crown over Eagle.

Vicente Santos and Winnie Gob, co-chair of the executive committee, graced the awards rites at the Aoki clubhouse where prizes worth more than P3 million were raffled off.

"It's been another memorable series. We just are glad to be given the continous support of members of Sta. Lucia clubs and we hope to make it even bigger next year," said Santos and Gob of a course-hopping series that already had gone nationwide only on its second year.

Next to its involvement in the Philippine Basketball Association, the golf tour is Sta. Lucia's biggest sports project.

Sta. Elena retains title

WITH an in-form Jingy Tuason keeping his explosive form, Sta. Elena won two of the four divisions and went on to successfully retain the overall plum of The Tradition tournament played in three different courses recently.

Tuason broke par for the second time in three days a one under par 71 at his home course—and took the individual gross award with plenty to spare while leading his team to an overwhelming victory over the 10-team field.

Other members of the team are Dickie Dizon, Herbert Chan, JV Velasquez and Mike Romulo in Group I; Rene Roy, Egay San Luis, Jackie Arellano, Raymond Suarez and Jong Montano in Group II; Henry Sy, Samson Lim, Jay Tuason, Rico Cavestany, Dodie Panggat and Tony Gutierrez in Group III and Nobuhiro Ishijima, Fred Masigan, Honorio Poblador, Macky Lopez, Ed de Leon and Dave Floro in seniors.

Sta. Elena claimed top honors in Group I and III, Southwoods salvaged Group II while Luisita, fielding the fearsome trio of Allan Gaston, Alex Montelibano and Silay Mayor Carlo Gamban, went unchallenged in seniors play.

PDI KEGFEST

Team Lamborghini captured the overall championship in the recent 2001 Inter-Color Duckpin Bowling Tournament at the StarMall bowling alley in Edsa and Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City. Headed by team captain Boy Abing (3rd from right, holding trophy), Lamborghini is composed of (from left) Resty Lee, Jobee Jovellano, Tin-Tin Ang, Girlie Cuales, Francis Ambrosio, INQUIRER VP-Corporate Services Dave Valdez, Edward Gallardo, Joel Nigos, (kneeling from left) Cecille Gallardo and INQUIRER President Sandy Prieto. NOEL CAPARROS

Welcoat subdues Montaña

By Dennis U. Eroa

BEMEDALLED Welcoat Paints shackled Montaña Jewels in the overtime period, snapping a four-game losing streak with a hard-earned 72-63 victory yesterday in the PBL Challenge Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Sweet-shooting Mark Macapagal forced overtime with a buzzer-beating three-point shot, 62-62, but Montaña simply lacked the finishing kick to extend Welcoat's misery.

The Paintmasters thus evened their record to 4-4, same slate of resurgent Ateneo-Pioneer, which posted its third straight win by beating lackluster Kutitap Toothpaste, 68-60, in the first game. Montaña dropped to a league's worst 2-7.

SCORES

ATENEO-PIONEER 68—Avenido 23, Ferrer 10, Villanueva 9, Noble 9, Sison 8, Alvarez 4, Dela Rosa 3, Mamaril 2, Membrere, Cruz 0, Bugia 0, Fonacier 0.

KUTITAP 60—Bagulo 12, Natividad 12, Salangsang 12, Rivera 7, Mercado 5, Dy 4, Gonzales 3, Bajar 3, Gelig 2, Sison 0, Lopez 0, Saquilayan 0.

Quarters: 20-19, 30-32, 47-51, 68-60

The call

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva

IT WAS one lazy Sunday morning exactly a week ago today when I received a surprise call while inside a convenience store somewhere in Quezon City.

The man on the other line simply told me to place some bets on two of his horses running on that day because he has a strong feeling they'd win.

"Edwin, *tayaan mo lang kasi baka makatsamba pareho*," the caller said before emphasizing "*tayaan mo lang ha at huwag mong kalilimutan*."

Without hesitation, I rushed to the nearest off-track betting station and placed my advanced bets.

A few hours later, third favorite Mica's Magic routed the opposition in the Juvenile Hopeful.

The other win we were anticipating didn't materialize, however.

Although Magical Mark finished only fourth, a hard-fighting fourth in the Juvenile Championship, the filly gave us our bet's worth. Moreover, the very promising galloper also hinted that she could be a strong contender in the coming big races.

We won some on Mica's Magic and lost some, too, on Magical Mark but the important thing was Sandy Javier gave us two reliable tips last week.

Kung gaya lang sana ni Sandy ang lahat ng horseowners eh di walang problema.

* * *

Expect a jampacked Myther and Friends on Dec. 14.

Reason? The Metropolitan Association of Race Horse Owners, in cooperation with the Friday Club, is holding a *bienvenida* party for Jason Lim who is planing in from Hong Kong and will be staying here for good.

This early, host Myther "The Adriatico Kid" Buñag is already rolling the red carpet for Jason and his wife Dimple, and their friends from the horse racing world.

Among those who will fete Jason are Putch Puyat, Sandy Javier, Hermie Esguerra, Butch Mamon, Bobby Yutadco, Tony Boy Eleazar, Tony Arevalo Eric Tagle, Raymund Puyat and Albert Yam.

Special guest is former Rep. Peping Cojuangco.

Myther said the affair is strictly not for "*kunats* be located."

* * *

A horseowner friend of mine asked me if there are "*kunats* be located" among Friday Club members.

I told him Myther Buñag knows the answer to that.

RACING TIPS

AT SAN LAZARO BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. San Diego Force 2. Unbreakable 3. Ounce of Gold 4. Cutting Edge 5. Praetorian
Race 2—1. Art of Rose 2. Patikim 3. Dixie Dancer 4. Red Anya
Race 3—1. I Love You 2. James Joy 3. Lorna 4. Gold and Dollar
Race 4—1. Playing With Fire 2. Mark's Treasure 3. Ann's Magic 4. Very Sharp
Race 5—1. Tayp Ko Yan/Touch of Jax 2. Magnicolo 3. King Aldrin 4. Forever Royale 5. Bardagul 6. Lucky Gambit
Race 6—1. Sea Wolf 2. Doctor Steve 3. Divine Diva
Race 7—1. Flying Free 2. Arriba King 3. Thundering Dunk 4. Emergency Blow 5. Tribeca 6. Replica
Race 8—1. Boogie Shoes 2. Pabuya 3. Star of Alabang
Race 9—1. Caton 2. Pacific Dancer 3. Sky Wind 4. Batang Plaza
Race 10—1. Snowy Market 2. Empire Girl 3. Ahoy There 4. Guts 5. Adrenalin
Race 11—1. Hong Kong Treasure 2. Taskmania 3. Rain Check 4. Royal Angel 5. Fire Mouth 6. ManiamaN
Race 12—1. Sweep Away 2. Winning Rose 3. Lovely Luigi 4. Triple Joy
Race 13—1. Hurry King 2. A Fair to Remember 3. Knows Love 4. Enseguida 5. El Bulldog
Race 14—1. Gifted Angel 2. Sealed With A Kiss 3. Mr. Positive 4. Court General 5. Strawberry Joy 6. Nyora Aiding

Top breeders form Galleros de Manila

TOP breeders in Manila and Luzon recently organized themselves into a closely knit and dynamic group called Galleros de Manila.

A brainchild of amiable cocker Danny "Showdown" Ty, this organization aims to enjoy derbies and improve the quality of breeding fighting cocks.

Head of the Executive Committee Iking Araneta said that they organized Galleros to save the cockfighting industry in Metro Manila from dying.

"When we met on Oct. 10 this year at the Kamayan in Makati, we first talked on the future of cockfighting considering the economic situation we are in," Araneta said.

According to him, their group has decided to band together to hold inexpensive derbies.

"This way we can enjoy derbies even if money is quite hard. This time our emphasis is on the sporting aspect of cockfighting. Betting will be secondary," said Francis Lumunsad, one of the members of the Executive Committee.

Galleros de Manila is optimistic of their success.

"With the full support and cooperation of Rolly Ligon how can we fail?" said Ty. Ligon is the owner of the biggest and most modern cockpit arena in Metro Manila, the Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City.

"Our derbies will have a pot money of P8,800 for a 4-cock derby and P11,000 for a 5-cock derby. But the minimum bet is P5,500," Araneta said.

Anand advances

MOSCOW—India's reigning Fide world chess champion Viswanathan Anand moved into the semifinals of the 2001-02 knock-out competition Friday by drawing with Spain's Latvian-born Alexei Shirov, beating him 1.5-0.5 overall in their two games. He drew with Shirov with the black pieces, having beaten him playing white on Thursday. *AFP*

Marathon finals today

OVER 5,000 runners are expected to answer the starting gun in the Milo Marathon National Finals which will unfurl today at the Quirino Grandstand in Manila. The bulk of the participants will compete in the 3K and 5K runs while national team aspirants are seeing action in the 10K and 42K hostilities. The 42K run will start at 4:30 a.m., while the 3K, 5K and 10K begin at 6 a.m.

Sunday SPORTS
AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▨ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

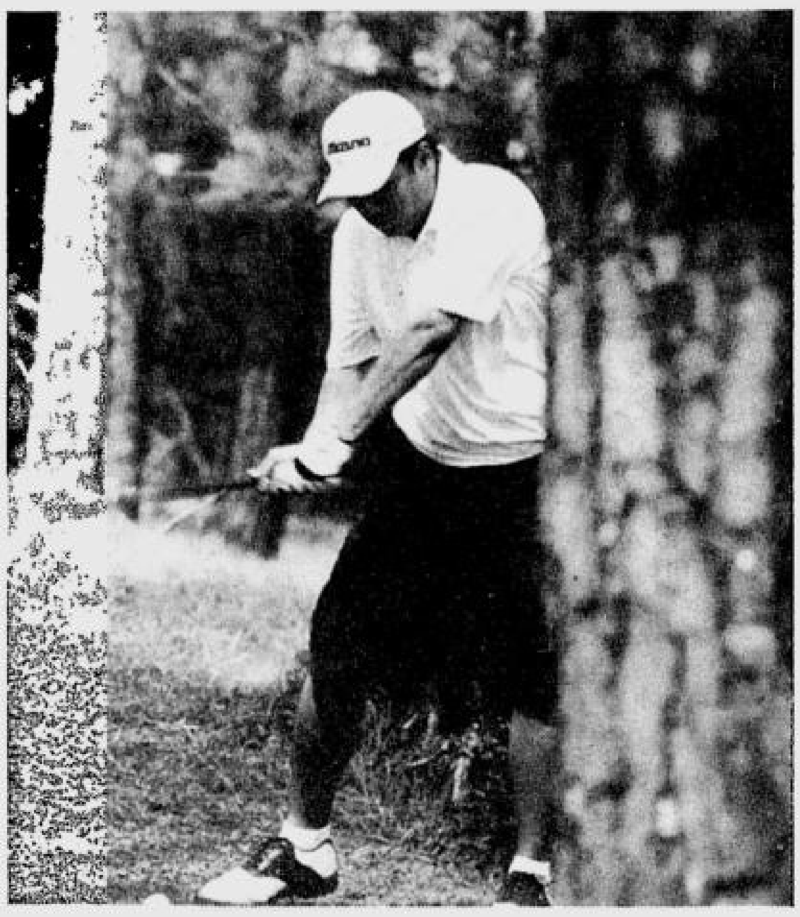
Anilao hosts fishing tourney

SCUBA divers will receive an early holiday treat from Eagle Point Resort in Anilao, Batangas when the Beuchat Fish ID Dive Adventure reels off on Dec. 7-9 and Dec. 14-16. The event will be held in cooperation with Dive Buddies, Safety Stop Dive Shop and 99.5 RT. Entry fee is P3,200. For registration, please call Unlimited Diving at 920-8505 or 0917-9368895.

Mizuno-DHL completes rise from the ashes

CAP-Southwoods deflected

By Al S. Mendoza



LOVELL Gopez of SLGC Master Sports team hits a shot on hole No. 11 in the Fil-Am Golf Championship in Baguio City. JESS YUSON

BAGUIO CITY—The sun came back and, as if by divine design, shone brightly on Mizuno-DHL yesterday that put a happy, fitting finale to a turbulent week of Fil-Am Golf.

The gray skies of two days finally turned blue but bluer though was the final-day scenery for the woe-stricken CAP-Southwoods team in the Am Championship, whose prestige is almost equal to that of the prime-division Fil Championship.

Mizuno-DHL turned in a blazing, if not cheerful, windup at Baguio Country Club to deflect CAP-Southwoods' bid for a third sweep of both premiere crowns in the world-class event backed by Smart, Sony-Ericsson, College Assurance Plan, John Hay Poro Point and Eva Air.

The rousing victory came after CAP-Southwoods completed its expected runaway triumph in the Fil Championship over Mizuno-DHL at Camp John Hay.

CAP-Southwoods had been favored to win both divisions for the third straight year but the hastily-crafted challenge posed by Mizuno-DHL had suddenly ensured drama of the first degree to the fabled event born in 1949.

"Our victory was sweet indeed but it was made sweeter by the fact that we won it when we really needed to prove that we could defeat them," said Benny Gopez of his Mizuno-DHL crew that won the Am Championship. "We've proven our point and that means a lot to us."

The point Gopez was stressing about was his boys' clinical demolition yesterday of CAP-Southwoods' Juami Rocha (34), Thirdy Escano (27), Lyndon Barril (27) Montito Garcia (27) and Hanson So (26) in the Am Championship at Baguio Country Club.

It came after a rash of disqualifications nearly destroyed established traditions of fun and camaraderie in the 51-year-old event between the main title contenders.

CAP-Southwoods' 115 yesterday was six points lesser than the 121 of Mizuno-DHL's squad of Tebor Marcelino (33), Roy Decendario (30), Jojo Fernando (29), Ingemar Kjellberg and Jojo Grandeza (27).

Mizuno-DHL began the day 6 up after Rocha's Round 1 36 was disqualified, leaving only three scores counting for the five-man CAP-Southwoods team as Barril was also disqualified for signing a wrong scorecard on Wednesday.

Juami's Round 2 score was also voided for the same offense of allowing his caddy to mark for him on both days.

Adding Mizuno-DHL's 116-104-112, it totalled 453—12 points ahead of CAP-Southwoods' 441 (95-117-114).

"We prayed hard and, thankfully, our prayers were heard by the Almighty above us," said Gopez, who herded his wards to St. Joseph's Church to hear an 8 a.m. Mass yesterday.

But CAP-Southwoods' powerhouse Fil Championship team won the crown by a rout, 563-515, over Mizuno-DHL after a huge 145 finish on the 37s of Angelo Que and Erwin Vinluan, 36 of Artemio Murakami and 35 of Jerome Delariate.

Mizuno-DHL ended up its challenge with 133 on Jay Bayron's 35, Mario Labajo and Emilio Tuason's 33s and Marvin Dumandan's 32 at the sleek Camp John Hay.

Forest Hills finished third in both the Fil and Am Championships. It beat fourth-placer Capitol Hills (Tony Boy Asistio, Bong Igaya, Sen. Tito Sotto, Maru Sotto and Vic Sotto) in the Am Championship and Fairways & Blue Water in the Fil Championship.

Forest Hills' Fil squad is composed of Raffy Garcia, Jong Laput, Ronnie Littaua, Teboy Javier, Boni Ysip and Florence delos Santos. The members of its Am crew are Lorenzo Patnungon, Levi Marcelino, Bobby Chico, Ferdinand Atendido, Vic Cordero and Celistino Lee.

Camp John Hay's Shean Bedi, Ronnie Samaniego, Danny Samaniego, Jimmy Borromeo and Mike Pearson won the Fil Flight A title. The team also prevailed in the Am Flight A through Mars Garcia, Bong Mandapat, Clyde Cabreros, Freddie Mendoza, Nap Maranan and Bob Sobrepena.

In the Fil Flight B, SLGC-Master Sports beat Aguinaldo by 5 points behind a final-day surge by Francis Calma (26), Goody Ignacio (29), Benny Gopez (19), Daboy del Carmen (23) and Ben Lilican (23).

Aguinaldo, ahead by 1 going to yesterday's final round, had 115 to SLGC- Master Sports 121 on the scores of Rudy Cawad (22), Jun Sarmiento (23), Butch Dulay (29 and Sonny Raymundo (21).

Bumping into Vic Vic V

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

BAGUIO CITY—The final putt had been dropped, the final handshake made, the trophy handed down to the champions.

But long after the 52nd Fil Am Championship is gone, memories—both bitter and fond—will forever linger in the minds of those who were present.

The fond ones will always be those who had fun of the first order—wine and roses, rousing nightcaps at both the verandah and 19th holes, improbable putts holed.

The bitter ones will be those that involved players who came not primarily to engage in a friendly competition but instead to win at all costs.

■

I had the happy occasion to raise glasses with Vic Vic Villavicencio, the Kamayan bigwig, Friday night at the Baguio Country Club. Man, I didn't know he was a Beatlemaniac, too.

"To George Harrison, Al," he kept saying, his scotch glass raised up high "What was his best song again?"

Something.

"Ah, Something," he said.

Then he started humming the song.

"What else, Al?"

My Sweet Lord. I Need You. Savoy Truffle. If I Needed Someone. All Things Must Pass.

"Oh, boy, he did a lot *din pala*," Vic Vic said. "But George, I believe, is the handsomest of the four Beatles, *di ba*?"

After several more shots, Vic Vic sort of forced me to dish out a song.

"Beatles, Al, just one. For me *lang*," he said.

I had just recovered my voice; it had been "lo-bat" for days due to the nippy cold weather here. But then, how can I refuse a friend. And so, I did one. Dyaraaan! I did "Imagine."

After the song, Vic Vic said: "Al, next year, please join my Triple V Team in the Fil-Am?"

Before I could answer, he said: "Our team manager would be Jake Ayson, the best rulesman in the world." Rene Ligon nodded.

Oh, yes, Jake promptly accepted the challenge. Afterwards, with only myself and Jake left at the piano bar after Vic Vic had made his exit, Jake celebrated his appointment by belting out his signature song, "Mona Lisa."

After giving him my warm applause, Jake said: "You want one more?"

How can I say no to a buddy of mine for decades?

After doing "Moon River"—also complete with his body English and all while at it—we hit the sack.

The next morning, Jake started scouting for my Triple V teammates for next year's Fil-Am.

Hangover's a disease whose cure is a quick swig the morning after.

■

Here's a belated congratulation to Joel M. Dayrit, Bobby Isip, Ed Wilkomm and Ronnie Littaua, who were the "only" ones who made hole-in-one feats from a field of 690 in the 52nd Fil-Am Golf Championship.

Cheers!

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Dec. 23	Sun	Washington	vs.	New York
Dec. 27	Thu	Indiana	vs.	Orlando
Dec. 30	Sun	San Antonio	vs.	Milwaukee
Jan. 03	Thu	Milwaukee	vs.	Minnesota
Jan. 06	Sun	Minnesota	vs.	Atlanta
Jan. 09	Thu	Orlando	vs.	Philadelphia
Jan. 13	Sun	Milwaukee	vs.	New York
Jan. 17	Thu	Miami	vs.	L.A. Lakers
Jan. 20	Sun	L.A. Lakers	vs.	San Antonio
Jan. 24	Thu	New York	vs.	Toronto
Jan. 27	Sun	New York	vs.	Milwaukee
Jan. 31	Thu	L.A. Lakers	vs.	Orlando

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Dec.17	9:00 AM	Washington	vs.	Toronto
Dec.24	8:00 AM	Milwaukee	vs.	San Antonio
Dec.31	8:00 AM	Orlando	vs.	New York
Jan.07	9:00 AM	L.A. Lakers	vs.	Toronto
Jan.14	10:00 AM	Phoenix	vs.	Sacramento
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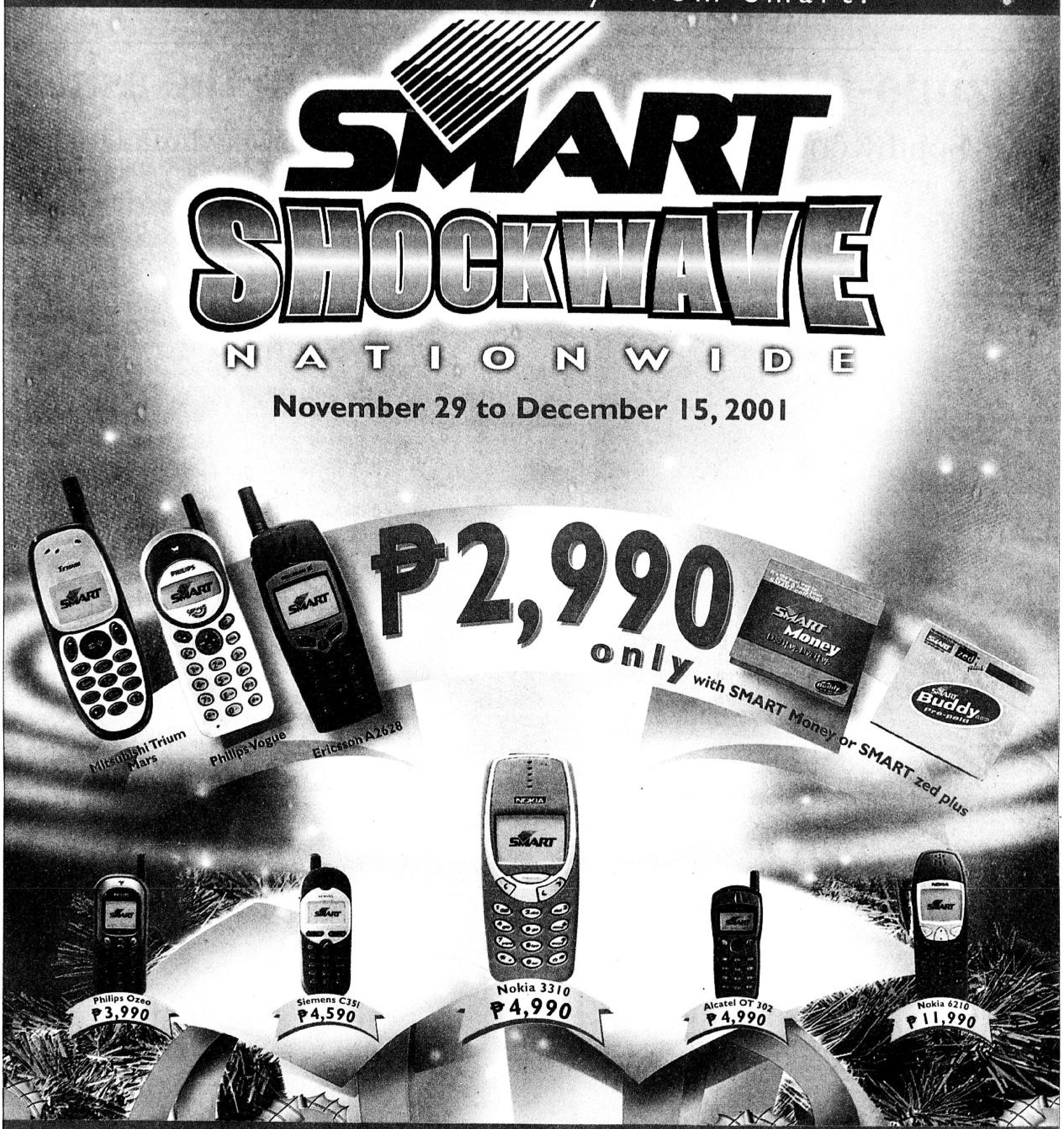

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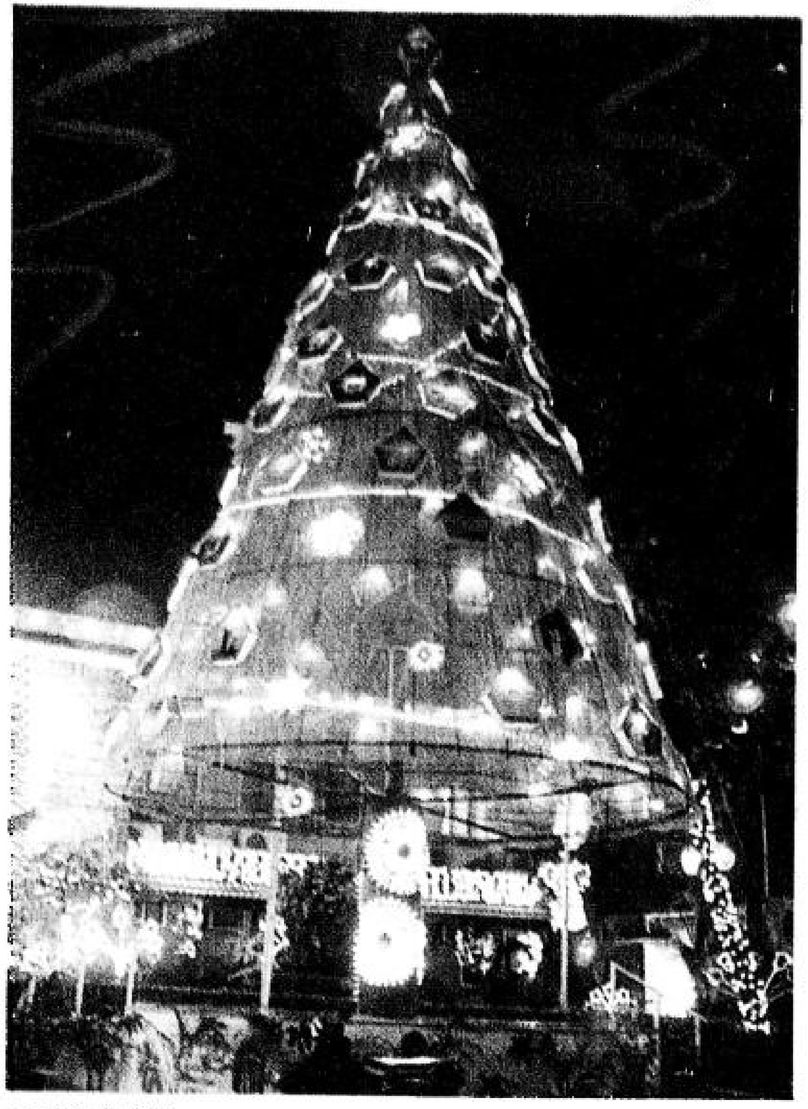
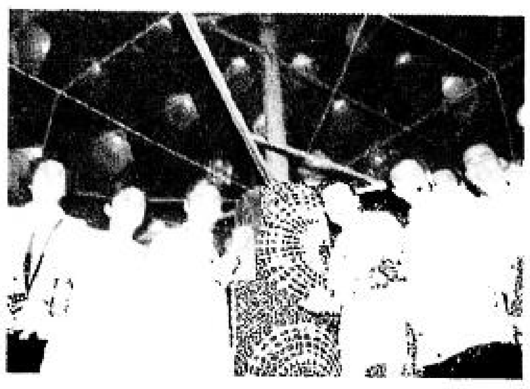
METRO
LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Atienza throws support behind Aglipay A24
330 rights cases blamed on GMA gov't A24





LIGHTS UP
The lights on a 50-foot Christmas tree at the Muntinlupa quadrangle is switched on by Mayor Jaime Fresnedi (below, third from left), signaling the start of Yuletide season in the city.

Two water companies ask for new price increase

BY CHRISTINE A. GAYLICAN AND CATHY C. YAMSUAN

AS NORTHERN areas of Metro Manila yesterday suffered an unexpected dry spell, the two private water service providers have petitioned government for another rate increase to take effect in January 2002.

This is the third time this year that Maynilad Water Services Inc. and Manila Water Company Inc. have asked for a water rate increase.

According to Maynilad Water officials, yesterday's water interruption occurred when the Angat Dam failed to release enough water to fill the demand of residents.

They said the low water pressure affected Valenzuela, Malabon, Caloocan City, Tondo, Sampaloc, Quiapo, and the northern part of

TWO WATER/ A24

Lito Pimentel runs amuck, goes after Badoy's doctor

BY AGNES DONATO

POLICE filed charges against actor and TV host Lito Pimentel for allegedly running amuck and threatening to kill his neighbor, who is said to be the heart surgeon of Justice Anacleto Badoy, over parking space in Quezon City early yesterday morning.

Pimentel, 38, in turn accused Dr. Norbert Uy, 47, and three others of beating him up in their residential compound on Boston Street in Barangay Immaculate Concepcion, Quezon City.

Investigator PO3 Antonio Torrente said an intoxicated Pimentel and his wife, Ma. Chrysantine, arrived at their residence on board their Mitsubishi Galant (TML 777) about 4 a.m. yesterday.

According to the Uys' statement to the police, Pimentel blew his top when he found that an Isuzu Elf truck

LITO PIMENTEL/ A24

PIMENTEL FILE PHOTO

MRS. RAQUIZA

Christmas without 'Ishi'

BY LEAH SALTERIO

DESIREE

THE RAQUIZA family will have their first Christmas this year without their baby, Ishi.

Ishi, the 17-year-old Desiree Raquiza, died Tuesday night at the Makati Medical Center where she had been in a coma since she was injured in a Nov. 17 road accident with her boyfriend, actor Vandolph Quizon, also 17.

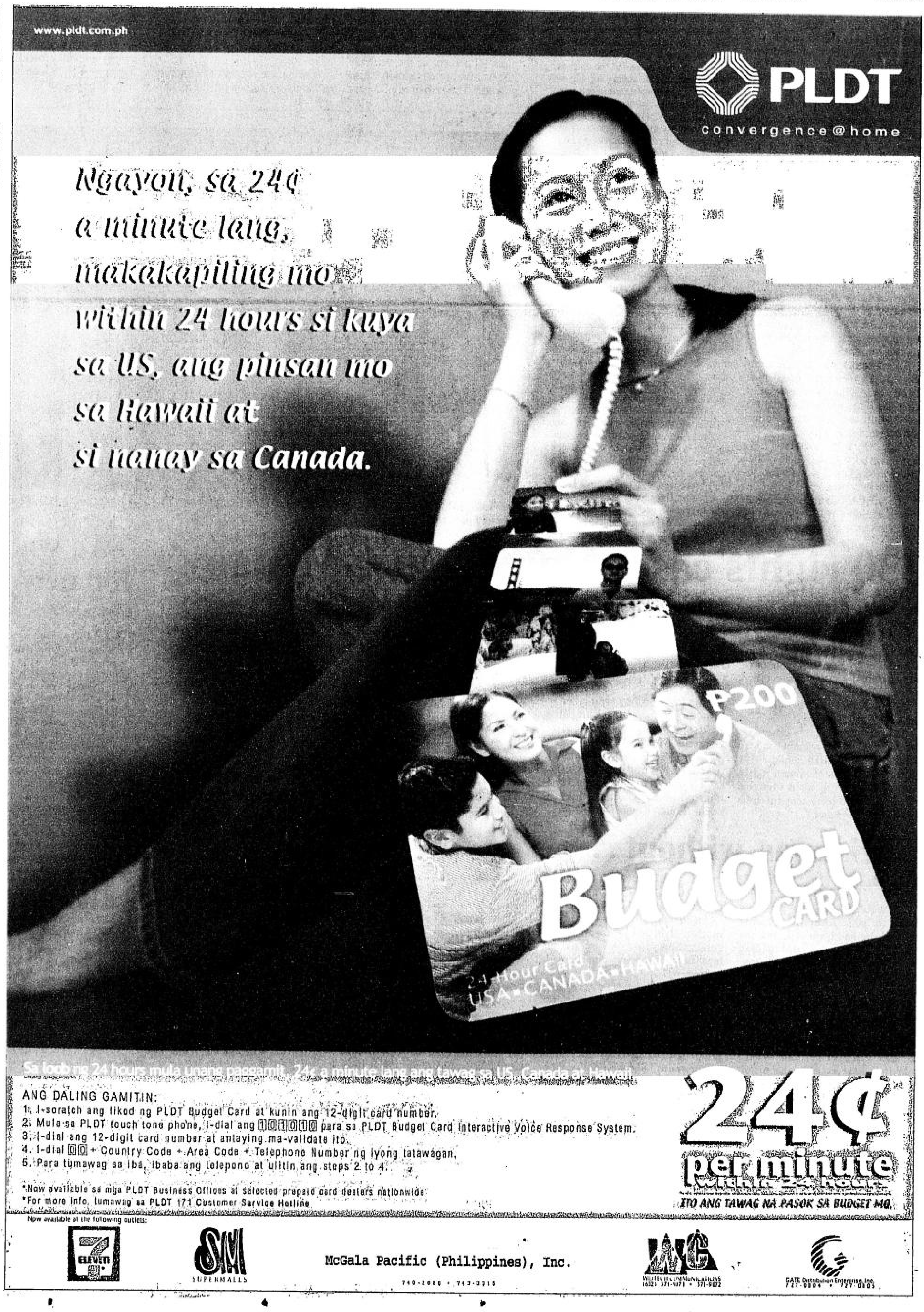
"The two weeks in the (Makati Med ICU) somehow prepared us for this tragedy," Ishi's mother, Marissa Raquiza, told the INQUIRER. "But losing someone you love is never really easy. You might be able to smile but deep inside, you're full of tears. You hear people talking to you but what they're saying just doesn't sink in."

Even before Ishi passed away, her doctors had declared her clinically dead due to the injuries she suffered when the van Vandolph was driving collided with a truck in Pangasinan.

Two men in the van and the four people in the truck were also injured.

Ishi will be buried today at the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, Parañaque.

CHRISTMAS/ A24



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‘Taho’ vendor, too, sheds tears for Nida Blanca

By TJ Burgonio

TALES OF THE CITY

HE WAS neither a fan nor a relative but Ponciano Lim also shed tears for murdered actress Nida Blanca.

Why wouldn't he? He was the actress' favorite *taho* vendor for the past 20 years.

Mang Ponching said that with Blanca's death, he lost not only a loyal customer but also a gentle, generous friend who always had a gift—cash and a bag of goodies—for him every Christmas time.

"Who wouldn't feel sad? She was the most generous, most gentle and most understanding person I've ever known. Now she's gone," the vendor said in Filipino, his voice trailing off.

Mang Ponching, now 57, said Blanca had been buying from him since 1974, when he started hawking *taho* inside what was then sparsely occupied White Plains subdivision in Quezon City.

At that time, a cup of taho cost only a few centavos and Blanca's daughter Katherine, or Kay, was only 13, he recalled.

Mang Ponching, a resident of Oxford Street in Cubao, Quezon City, recalled that Blanca often bought at least three cups of *taho* – for herself, for daughter Kay and for her mother.

"Sometimes, she bought some for her household help," he said, noting that the actress bought from him almost every day, missing only once or twice a week.

Two days before her killing, Blanca even bought two cups of *taho* from him, he said.

"That time she was puttering in her garden," he said. "She immediately called me when she saw me. After buying, she told me 'Ponching, take care.' And I replied: 'You, too, Ate Nida.'

"She was such a jolly person."

That was the last time he saw her.

When he passed by her residence at 28 Nathan Lane on the morning of Nov. 8 as was his daily routine, *Mang* Ponching was expecting to see the usually vibrant Blanca working in her garden.

But he was shocked when he was told that she had been found stabbed dead inside her car at the Atlanta Center building in San Juan the day before.

"Who wouldn't be shocked," he said. "I don't think she had any enemy."

On the morning of Blanca's burial, *Mang* Ponching did not make his usual rounds but opted to hawk *taho* outside the chapel where a Mass was held for the late actress.

"I had wanted to go to the cemetery but I couldn't hitch a ride," he said.

Like Blanca's relatives and friends from show biz, *Mang* Ponching said he was also anxious why the killer or killers had not been brought to justice.

To the real killer or killers, he had this to say: "Have a heart, surrender."

He also appealed to any witnes to the killing to come out in the open and cooperate with the police for the speedy resolution of the case.

"Whoever witnessed the killing, he or she should come out and tell the truth so that *Ate* Nida's restless soul will find peace," he said,

The Inquirer chanced upon *Mang* Ponching while he was doing his usual rounds outside the barangay hall of White Plains on the day Kay Jones-Torres held a press conference there.

Kay, according to *Mang* Ponching, still remembers him when she sees him and is just as doting as her mother.

"She's close to me," he said of Blanca's daughter. "She greets me each time she sees me."

He said Kay also gives him presents during Christmas whenever she's in town.

Kay has been living in the United States for the past several years.

Despite Blanca's death, the sunburnt *Mang* Ponching still makes his stop at the actress' house, like he has been doing for more than 20 years.

"The household help still buy *taho* from me," he added.

Married with five children, aged 19 to 24, *Mang* Ponching earns an average of P200 a day, just enough to support his family through the hard times.

Atienza throws support behind Aglipay

By Jerome Aning

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza on Friday said he supports the new disciplinary rules of National Capital Regional Police Office chief Director Edgardo Aglipay—to the "dismay" of city policemen who are objecting to the new regulations.

"Any policeman who does not want to follow orders should be shipped out of Manila," the mayor told reporters in his weekly media forum at City Hall on Friday.

Atienza said Aglipay's orders calling for the mandatory daily formation and roll call of all policemen in the metropolis would promote professionalism among members of the Western Police District.

Under Aglipay's directive, those who are not in complete uniform, are late or absent thrice without a valid reason, will be transferred to the provinces.

The Manila's Finest Brotherhood Association, composed of WPD's rank-and-file, described the punishment as "too harsh" and violated the policemen's right to due process.

SPO4 Marcelo Tadeo, MFBA secretary general, told reporters yesterday that he and other association officers would try to bring their concerns to Aglipay himself when the NCRPO chief attends the flag-raising ceremony at WPD headquarters tomorrow morning.

Tadeo said some MFBA members who are "dismayed and demoralized" by Aglipay's order want to bring the Issue to the National Police Commission and the Commission on Human Rights.

Over 100 WPD members have been ordered transferred to police offices in Regions 3, 4 and 5 for violating the new rules.

The MBFA said the implementation of the new rules needs to be refined because it is causing dissension in the rank-and-file. The group's officials also questioned the penalties prescribed, claiming these are not immune from abuse of discretion.

He said one policewoman who was on official leave was included among those who were transferred for not attending the formation. The policewoman appealed her case but was still ordered to report to the Bicol regional police office.

Tadeo said another policeman who was studying in a Manila university was reassigned to Region 4 for not wearing his uniform when he attended the formation. The policeman asked for reconsideration but it was denied.

But Atienza defended the daily formation and roll call, saying Aglipay was just reviving a long-standing practice.

He recalled how "impressed" he was as a small boy whenever he watched policemen assigned to a precinct near their house go on formation every morning.

"Everyone was in full uniform as they formed up each morning in front of the police station," the mayor recalled. "They would be briefed by their superiors and would be given their assignments for the day.

"This was one of the reasons why the citizens in those times had a very high regard for policemen because they were very professional."

The mayor said Aglipay's move complements the city government's program, the so-called Service Induction and Reorientation for Manila policemen.

SIR aims to familiarize WPD members, especially those assigned to Manila for the first time, with the city's geography, history and culture, public officials, local ordinances as well as City Hall's development projects.

All WPD members are now required to undergo the program with a 64-hour syllabus—equivalent to a three units subject in college—which was designed and carried out by the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila.

Participants will be required to take a test after the course. Atienza said he would recommend the transfer of those who would fail the examination.

One car stolen every 4 hours, says Cayetano

A TOTAL of 1,970 cases of car theft were reported to the authorities in the 11 months to November this year, almost 11 percent or 185 incidents more than the 1,785 documented over the same period last year.

Citing National Police statistics, Sen. Renato Cayetano (Lakes) said the figures translate to an average of six cars stolen daily or one every four hours.

According to Cayetano, almost 80 percent of the vehicles lost were reported "stolen while parked." The remaining 20 percent were reported "forcibly taken."

Most of the vehicles reported forcibly taken were later found abandoned or were recovered after having been used by gangs in criminal activities.

Six out of every 10 vehicles stolen during the period were seized in Metro Manila, Cayetano said.

In a statement, the senator also repeated his warning to shopping mall owners that they could be held liable if cars parked in their facilities were stolen.

The Senate committees on trade and industry and on justice and human rights previously ruled that malls and other commercial establishments could not escape liability for losses or damages suffered by motorists who avail themselves of their paid or free parking facilities.

The city council of Makati recently passed an ordinance making establishments liable for losses or damages suffered by patrons in parking facilities.

The Senate panels described the waiver of liability found in most parking tickets as "a non-binding contract of adhesion."

A contract of adhesion could not be regarded as a true contract since it suppresses the will of one of the parties, Cayetano explained. In parking tickets, only the owner of the establishment fixes the terms, leaving the motorist no choice but to accept them.

A contract of adhesion should be interpreted strictly against the party who drafted the same in order to protect the other party against oppressive conditions, according to the Senate panels.

INNER WHEEL Club of Makati president Romero (second from right) distributes medicines during the medical mission.

Inner Wheel Club mission

The Inner Wheel Club of Makati recently conducted a medical and dental mission that served 2,754 residents of Barangay Ugong, Pasig City, according to club president Menchu G. Romero.

The club, the first Inner Wheel Club in Makati, earlier also donated clothes, shoes and food to the National Center for Women.

It was also behind the Akoy's Pilipino oral and essay writing contest; Operation Paglingap for the victims of the Mayon Volcano eruption; the adoption of Purok 6 in Barangay Ugong; and the monthly feeding program for streetchildren at the St. Francis Parish in Mandaluyong City, among other projects.

330 rights cases blamed on GMA gov't

By Agnes E. Donato

MILITANT organizations yesterday lashed at the Macapagal administration over the rising number of human rights violations, as recorded by the human rights group Karapatan, since the President assumed office in January.

Dani Beltran, secretary general of the Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace (EMJP), said the 330 documented cases of human rights violations "only proved that the Macapagal administration had wielded an iron hand."

"This year's commemoration of the International Human Rights Day is marked with the emergence of the Macapagal regime as the worst and most systematic human rights violator in the country," Beltran said.

The EMJP, along with other activist groups such as Karapatan, Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU), Gabriela, Moro-Christian Peoples Alliance (MCPA) and the Promotion of Church People's Response (PCPR), is set to mount protest actions on Monday to mark International Human Rights Day.

In a statement, Karapatan secretary general Marie Hilao-Enriquez reported that military and police forces are involved in 231 of the 330 recorded cases of human rights violations.

Enriquez said at least 137 individuals became victims of arbitrary arrest and detention while 38 people were killed in nine separate massacres.

The human rights activist also lamented the plight of at least 77 individuals who were assaulted, physically abused or tortured.

She recalled the case of five fishermen from Pantabanga, Nueva Ecija who were tortured and killed reportedly by military men on Oct. 8, and the massacre of four farmers from Antipolo City who were mistaken for communist rebels by members of the Special Action Force of the Philippine National Police in the same month.

"There is really no reason for us to celebrate on Monday," said MCPA spokesperson Amirah Ali Lidasan. "Instead, we should make the first Human Rights Day under the Macapagal administration a protest day."

Two water companies ask for new price increase

(From page A23)

Quezon City, including Project 8 and San Francisco del Monte.

Maynilad's hotline operators were flooded with calls from waterless residents as early as 6 a.m. yesterday.

In a phone interview, Maynilad officials explained that raw water from Angat Dam is treated at La Mesa dam before it is distributed to the different towns and cities of Metro Manila.

But early yesterday morning, Angat Dam failed to release the adequate supply, causing water at the Bagbag reservoir to fall below the normal level. This caused water pressure to drop in the affected areas.

Maynilad's hotline operators gave the assurance that water supply will be restored today if no technical problems surfaced last night.

In a hearing on Friday, Maynilad Water petitioned for another basic rate increase of 87 centavos per cubic meter to take effect in January 2002.

Last October, Maynilad Water was permitted an increase of P4.21 per cubic meter to compensate its previous foreign exchange losses.

Under the concession agreement with the government-run Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, Maynilad has again appealed to get another basic water rate adjustment.

The new water rate adjustment is within the Extraordinary Price Adjustment or EPA provision of the agreement.

The increase will pay for labor wages and delayed water projects which the water providers promised to carry out, said Philip Cases, Maynilad senior vice president for regulatory affairs.

The MWSS Regulatory Office, the government body overseeing the operations of private water companies since the sector's privatization, will review the separate petitions filed by the Lopez-owned Maynilad Water Services Inc (MWSI) and the Manila Water Company Inc. of the Ayalas.

The office will issue a decision not later than Dec. 15.

Christmas without . . .

(From page A23)

"It would have been probably easier for us to accept her passing away if she had been sick, but she was not," the mother said, adding that it would take some time before the family could really accept the girl's death.

"Ishi was always a very jolly person, always smiling, always waving at people," she remembered between sobs. "She was like a politician. I guess she took that after her lolo. What I would miss most about her is her smile."

Ishi was the granddaughter of former Assemblyman Antonio Raquiza. She, like Vandolph, was a high school junior at Colegio San Agustin in Makati City.

Prettier than mom

She was the second and only girl of the four children of Levy and Marissa Raquiza. Her brothers are Mikael, Levy II and Marchello.

"She was always the underdog because her brothers would gang up on her," their mother said. "But Ishi was close to all of them, especially to the youngest (Marchello)."

Ishi, who once was a print ad model for Coca-Cola, had strong mestiza features like her mother.

"She was prettier," said the mother. "Ishi and I were always together. She was my baby and my best friend. Just being with her made me happy."

She said Ishi was also very thoughtful.

"She would call me up every day from school during her lunch break," she said. "She also liked to give little gifts, sometimes even to the children of our maids. She would give them her old stuffed toys."

Math and fashion

The girl was christened Leriza Desiree Raquiza.

"She couldn't pronounce her name and she could only say 'Ishi,' so she grew up with that nickname," Mrs Raquiza said.

Ishi wanted to become an accountant or a designer, she said.

"She was good in math and she also loved to design clothes. She was my fashion critic. She would tell me if the clothes I was wearing did not look good on me or didn't match. She loved putting makeup on me. She was very artistic which I believe she took after her dad."

Ishi's teachers at Colegio San Agustin told Mrs. Raquiza the corridors of the high school building would never be the same again without Ishi.

Big behind

"She had a big butt and she had this amusing walk," the mother said. "Sometimes, she would put her big, rectangular wallet in the pocket of her skirt and turn the skirt around so that it would make her behind seem even bigger. She loved doing it on purpose."

Ishi wanted her clothes to be spotless and clean. "She hated it when the maids wash her clothes, so she'd rather do it herself," Mrs. Raquiza said. "She prepared even her school uniform.

"The night before the accident, she asked me to help her arrange her blouse for the next day. She never did it before. She told me she was already tired."

None to blame

Mrs. Raquiza stressed that the family is not filing any charges against Vandolph, contrary to earlier reports.

"We don't blame anyone for this tragedy," she said. "Accidents happen. When I talk to Vandolph's family, like his dad Dolphy or his mom (Alma Moreno), we never discuss the accident. Zsa Zsa (Padilla, Dolphy's partner) is also very supportive. We were always concerned about the kids."

She said she was never against the relationship of her daughter with Vandolph.

"I met Vandolph only once and he was very courteous," she said.

"Even if they decided to go to Baguio that day without our knowledge, we don't take it against Vandolph," she said. The collision happened while Vandolph and Ishi and their companions were on their way to Baguio City.

"In fact, I was even telling Eppy (Jeffrey Quizon, Vandolph's half-brother) that if Vandolph wakes up (also at the Makati Med ICU) and they need me to talk to him, I'm willing to do it."

Lito Pimentel . . .

(From page A23)

was occupying the parking space allotted for them.

The actor got off his car, asked who owned the truck in a loud voice and broke its side mirrors, Uy said.

Uy's brother Cesar, who is also a doctor, came out to check what the commotion was all about.

Cesar Uy told Pimentel that he owned the truck. He said he tried to reach a settlement with the actor regarding the damage done to the truck.

After a brief negotiation, Pimentel agreed to just pay for the broken side mirrors, police said.

But Pimentel again got angry when Cesar mentioned his plan to have the incident recorded in the police blotter so that he would be able to claim insurance, police learned.

Police said the actor rushed into his house, got a kitchen knife and chased the doctors.

This sent the Uy brothers dashing to their house, police said. They locked the door and ran upstairs, police added.

Pimentel allegedly destroyed the aluminum screen door of the Uys using his knife while threatening to kill them.

The investigator said Pimentel was not pacified and even tried to resist arrest when policemen arrived.

During investigation, Pimentel claimed that the Uy brothers were among the seven people who ganged up on him and beat him up.

He also mentioned Mario Dolo, 36, a relative of the Uys, and family helper Joel Morales in his physical injuries complaint.

Pimentel was in the custody of police and was set to be charged with grave threats and malicious mischief.

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3	HARRY POTTER

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

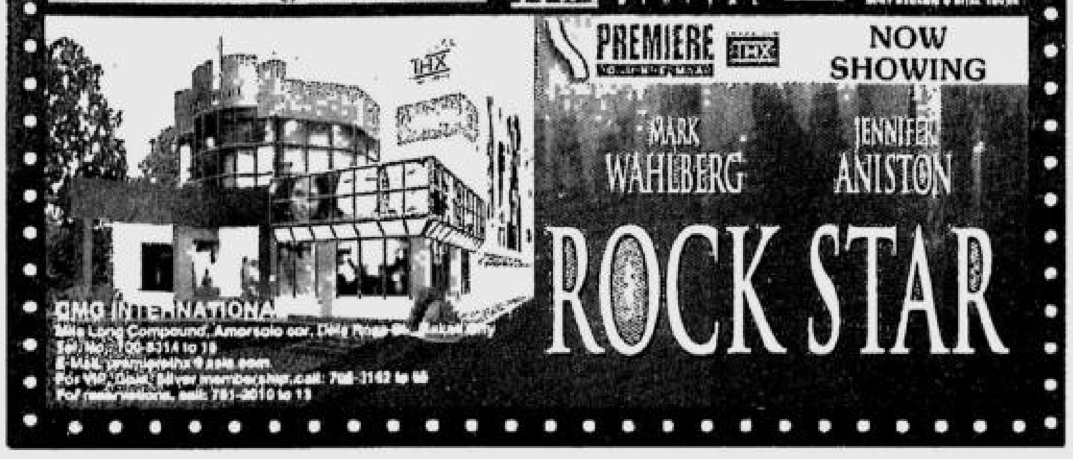
1	THE ONE
2	SERENDIPITY
3	HARRY POTTER
4	PAGDATING NG PANAHON

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	HARRY POTTER
2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3	SOON TO OPEN
4 (DTS EX)	JEEPERS CREEPERS

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS



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2	HARRY POTTER
3	THE SCORE
4	ROCKSTAR
5	DREAMGIRL
6	MONSTER, INC.
7	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
8	MUSKETEER
9	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
10	IRON LADIES

ERMITA
536-7809 TO 12

1	ROCKSTAR
2	HARRY POTTER
3	MONSTERS, INC.
4	THE SCORE
5	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
6	DREAM GIRL
7	MUSKETEER

METRO EAST
632-0115-16 / 633-7641

1	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
2	HARRY POTTER
3	THE SCORE
4	IRON LADIES
5	MUSKETEER
6	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
7	ROCKSTAR
8	DREAM GIRL

NOVALICHES
935-0229 TO 31

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3	DREAM GIRL
4	THE SCORE
5	ROCKSTAR
6	MUSKETEER
7	HARRY POTTER
8	MONSTERS, INC.

IMUS
(046) 471-0198

1	HARRY POTTER
2	THE SCORE
3	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
4	MUSKETEER
5	ROCKSTAR
6	DREAM GIRL

BACOLOD
(034) 441-0453 / 0459

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2	THE ONE
3	JEEPERS CREEPERS
4	SERENDIPITY
5	MONSTERS, INC.
6	WEYT A MINIT

ILOILO
(033) 336-0077 / 6078

1	DON'T SAY A WORD
2	KING OF GLADIATORS
3	HARRY POTTER
4	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
5	SOON TO OPEN
6	SOON TO OPEN

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	IRON LADIES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	MUSKETEER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	HARRY POTTER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	THE SCORE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	ROCKSTAR
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	DREAM GIRL
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	FAST & FURIOUS / A.I.
ODEON	MUSKETEER
ODEON-2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
ROBEN	TIKIM
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	PUKYUTAN / STORY OF US

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	TIKIM
REMAR	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
REMAR-2	TIKIM

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
B	TIKIM
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	MONSTERS, INC.
CINEMA-2	HARRY POTTER

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KUMAKASA PUMUPUTOK
CINEMA-2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
CINEMA-3	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SERENDIPITY
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MONSTER, INC.
CINEMA-6	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
CINEMA-7	TIKIM
CINEMA-8	IRON LADIES
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	ROCKSTAR
CINEMA-12	MUSKETEER
CINEMA-14	DREAM GIRL
CINEMA-15	PAGDATING NG PANAHON

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	ROCKSTAR
CINEMA-2	MONSTERS, INC
CINEMA-3	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-4	THE MUSKETEER
CINEMA-5	MONSTERS, INC.
CINEMA-6	THE SCORE

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

Benefit dinner concert

THE COUNTRY'S first-rate artists will showcase their talents in a benefit dinner-show, "The Season's Best," at 8 tonight at the Fiesta Pavilion of the Manila Hotel.

The concert will feature a musical powerhouse ensemble that includes Lani Misalucha, Robert Seña, Nolyn Cabahug, Carol Banawa, the Philippine Madrigal Singers, the Playshop Kids and Verni Varga.

The Aurelio Periquet Jr. Foundation (APJF), the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) and Phil-Export, with the Manila Hotel, Toyota and Oceanic are staging tonight's event to raise funds that will go to the Aurelio Periquet Jr. Business Scholarship Fund.

The audience will be treated to top quality entertainment. They can also help achieve the foundation's objective to send underprivileged but deserving students to college.

"The Season's Best" will be directed by Kokoy Jimenez with musical direction by Gerard Salonga.

For tickets, call the foundation secretariat at 894-4774 and 810-9652 or Manila Hotel at 527-0011.

Love . . .

(From page A29)

sive progress and sophistication in computer animation, advances that enable Sully's fur to shift as he moves, and even as he breathes.

On the debit side, the movie feels a little short and occasionally thin and redundant. But these negative impressions don't last long, and are soon upstaged by the story's next clever development or novel touch.

Promising movies on TV

ON HBO: Sunday, Dec. 9 at 8 p.m. "Forces of Nature." At 1:20 a.m., "The Natural."

Monday, Dec. 10 at 5:15 p.m., "Girl, Interrupted." 2 a.m., "The Blues Brother."

Tuesday, 9 p.m., "Band of Brothers 9: Why We Fight/ 10: Points" (Finale Special).

On Cinemax: Dec. 9 at 2 p.m., "Snow Falling on Cedars." 4:15 p.m., "School Ties." 10:30 p.m., "Biloxi Blues." 3:45 a.m., "The Master of Ballantrae."

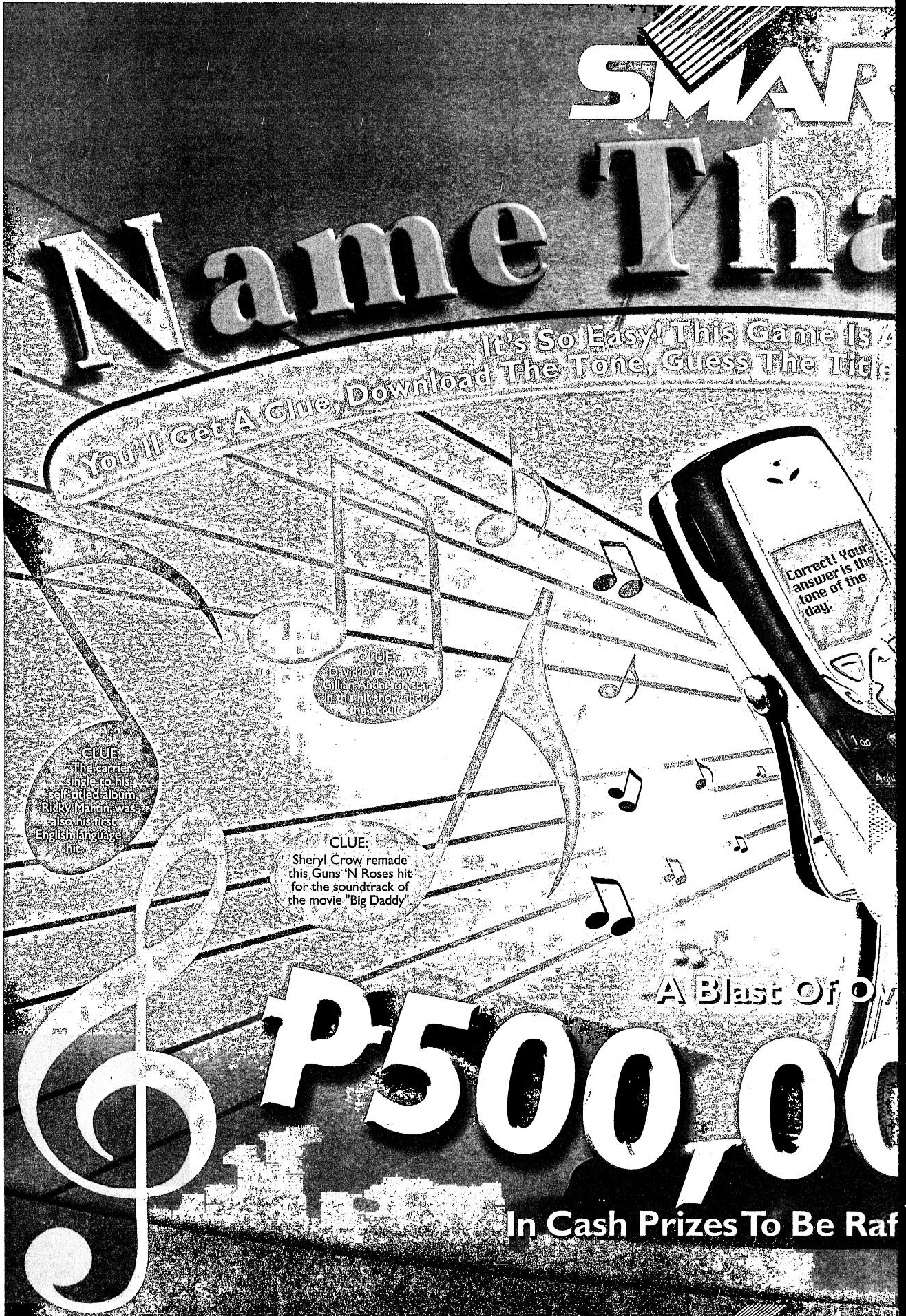
Dec. 10 at 9 p.m., "I'll Do Anything." 2 a.m., "Fergie and Andrew: Behind the Palace Doors."

Dec. 11 at 6 a.m., "The Glenn Miller Story." 10 a.m., "Rapture."

The Banyan Tree at Rizal Park

AT 5 p.m. today, Dec. 9, "Concert at the Park" features the Banyan Tree, an audio-visual performance group composed of young visual artists and musicians. The weekly cultural program is also aired on TV, every Thursday at 11 p.m. on Channel 4.

For its program at Rizal Park today, the Banyan Tree has prepared original works like "Takip-Silim sa Luneta," "Tayo na Mamasyal," "Hardin ng Bagumbayan," "Park Sounds," "Sunset Promenade" and "Hangin sa Park."



SMAR

Name Tha

It's So Easy! This Game Is A

You'll Get A Clue, Download The Tone, Guess The Titl

Correct! Your answer is the tone of the day.

CLUE:
David Duchovny &
Gillian Anderson star
in this hit show about
the occult.

CLUE
The carrier
single to his
self-titled album
Ricky Martin, was
also his first
English language
hit.

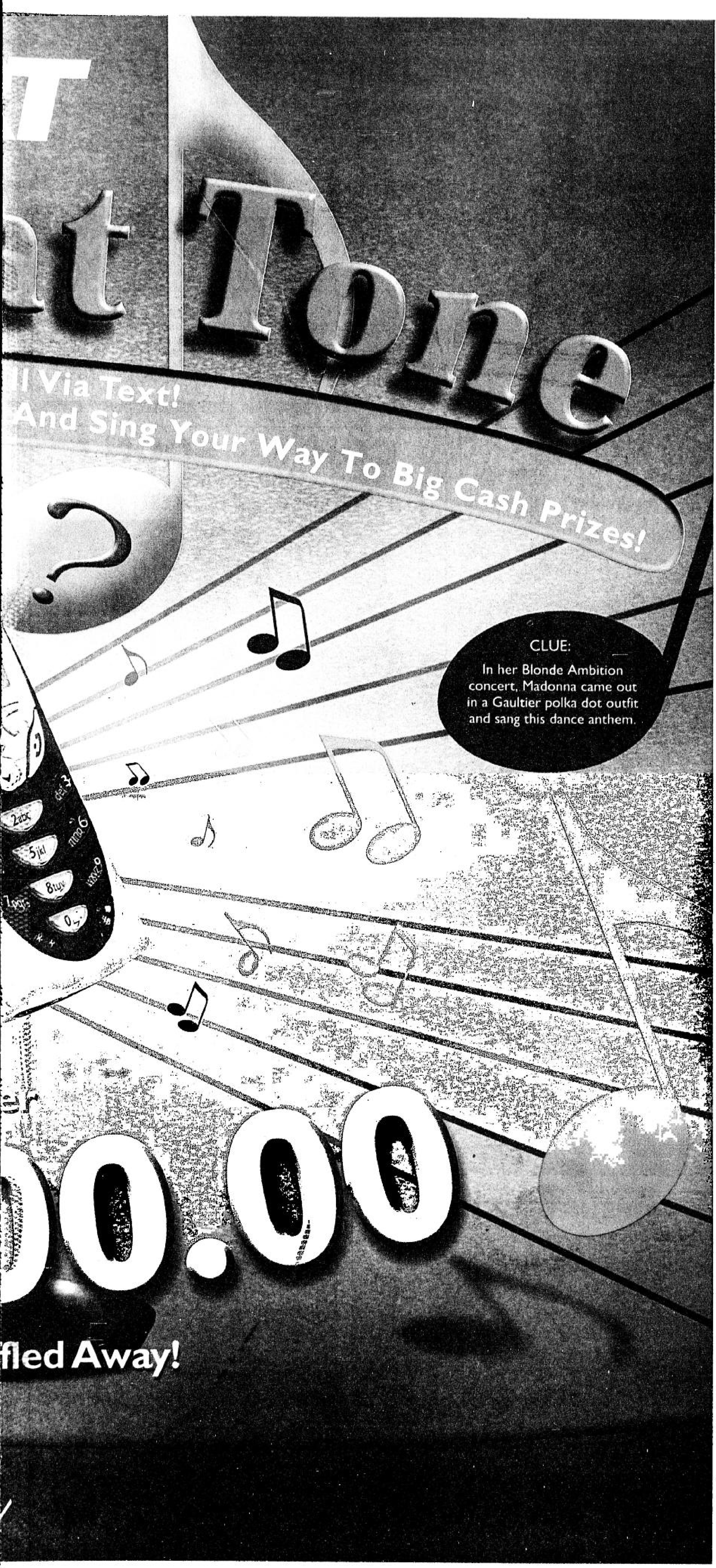
CLUE:
Sheryl Crow remade
this Guns 'N Roses hit
for the soundtrack of
the movie "Big Daddy".

A Blast Of Ov

P500,00

In Cash Prizes To Be Raf

SMART
Simply Amazing


T
nt Tone
l Via Text!
And Sing Your Way To Big Cash Prizes!
?
00.00
fled Away!

CLUE:

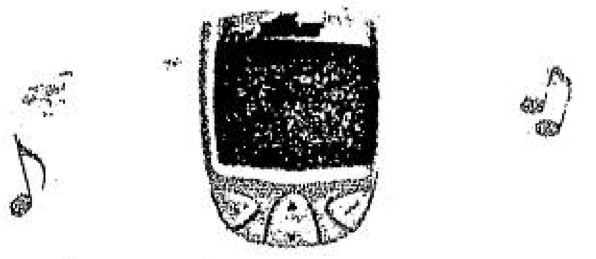
In her Blonde Ambition concert, Madonna came out in a Gaultier polka dot outfit and sang this dance anthem.

SMART NAME THAT TONE SETS THE BEAT FOR SOUNDS AND PRIZES

Register Now!

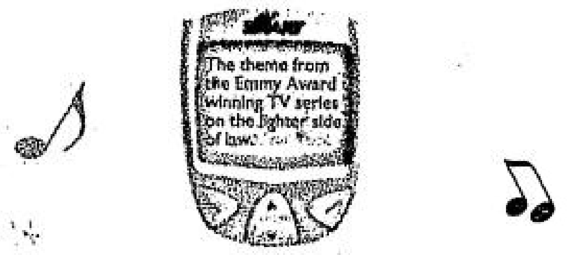
Key in NTT and send to 234.
Then follow the succeeding instructions;
- Key in NAME <your full name> and send to 234.
- Key in BIRTH <mmddyyyy> and send to 234.
- Key in ADD <address> and send to 234.

Your registration automatically earns you a raffle entry for all weekly draws.



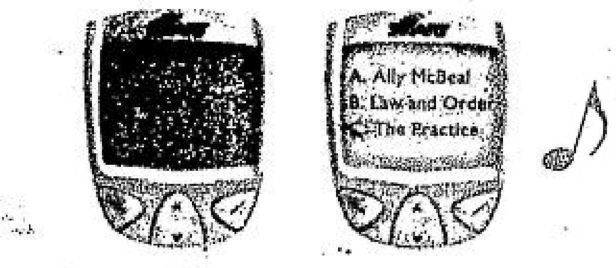
Play The Game!

You will then receive a clue about the mystery tone of the day.


The theme from the Emmy Award winning TV series on the lighter side of law.

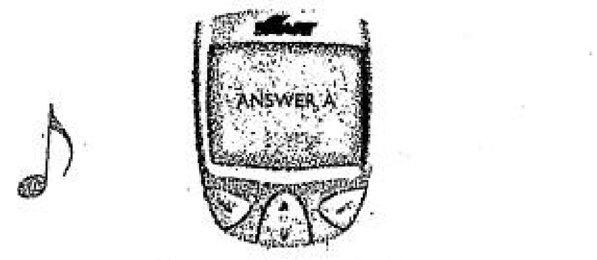
Guess The Title By Downloading The Tone!

Key in TONE and send to 234., Together with the downloaded tone, you will also receive the multiple choice set of ringtone titles.


A. Ally McBeal
B. Law and Order
C. The Practice

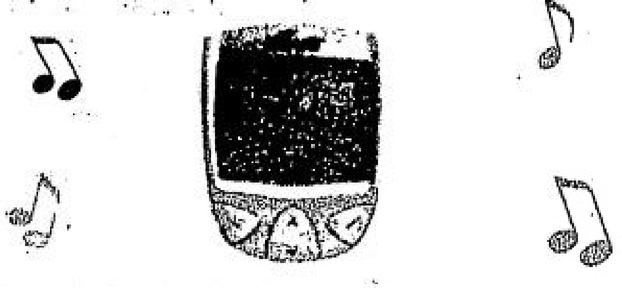
Text in your Answer!

Simply key in ANSWER <A, B or C> and send to 234. You will receive a message telling you whether you got the correct answer or not. There will only be one chance to guess the mystery tone of the day. Each correct answer earns you 5 raffle entries for the Monthly and Grand draws.


ANSWER A

Invite Your Friends And Earn More Raffle Entries!

Key in INVITE <your friend's SMART celfone number> and send to 234.
Each invite earns you 1 raffle entry, to be added to your total raffle entries.



To redisplay the clue, key in SHOW and send to 234.

To check your raffle entries, key in POINTS and send to 234.

The mystery tone of the day will be updated at 12 midnight daily.

Only subscribers with ringtone-download-capable handsets will be able to hear the mystery tone of the day. However, download is necessary to get the multiple choice set of ringtone titles. A subscriber without the necessary handset can still answer based on the clue and multiple choice set of ringtone titles.

WIN THESE PRIZES!

DRAW DATE	CASH PRIZE
GRAND DRAW: (1 winner) Feb. 11, 2002	₱200,000.00
MONTHLY DRAWS: (1 winner per draw) Jan. 14 and Feb. 11, 2002	₱50,000.00
WEEKLY DRAWS: (3 winners per draw) Dec. 21, 2001, Jan. 2, 7, 14, 21, 28, Feb. 4, and 11, 2002	₱10,000.00

**There will be a standard charge of ₱12.00 per ringtone download and ₱2.50 per message for all other transactions.*
**Cut-off time for the entries will be at 11:59 PM of the day before the draw date,*
**Ringtone-download-capable handsets are: Nokia 3210, 3310, 3330, 6150, 6210, 6250, 7110, 8210, 8250, 8310, and 9210.*

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Jericho shows them he's more than just 'Mr. Pogi'

JUST four years after, a complete unknown, he won the "Mr. Pogi" title on "Eat Bulaga," **Jericho Rosales** is a star that continues to shine brighter. He is one of the few actors who possess the requisites of the true movie idols—talent, good looks, dedication and love for his craft.

Launched as a member of ABS-CBN's Star Circle Batch 4, Jericho got his biggest break last year, when he was cast in the multi-awarded Metro Manila Film Festival entry, **Laurice Guillen**'s "Tanging Yaman," which eventually earned for him a best supporting actor nomination.

He was later given his own soap series, "Pangako sa Yo," the start of his reel and real love team with **Kristine Hermosa**. "Pangako sa 'Yo" ranks No. 1 among all multi-daily programs.

The love team created box-office records with the success of the teen-oriented flick, "Trip," megged by **Gilbert Perez**.

Now comes another big movie break for Jericho. He is cast in Star Cinema's filmfest entry this year, "Bagong Buwan," where he works for the first time with director **Marilou Diaz-Abaya** and award-winning actor **Cesar Montano**.

"Bagong Buwan" tackles the highly sensitive subject of the Muslim-Christian conflict in Mindanao. The script by **Ricky Lee** and **Jun Lana** has Jericho playing a soldier who is assigned to Mindanao and becomes sympathetic to the Muslims.

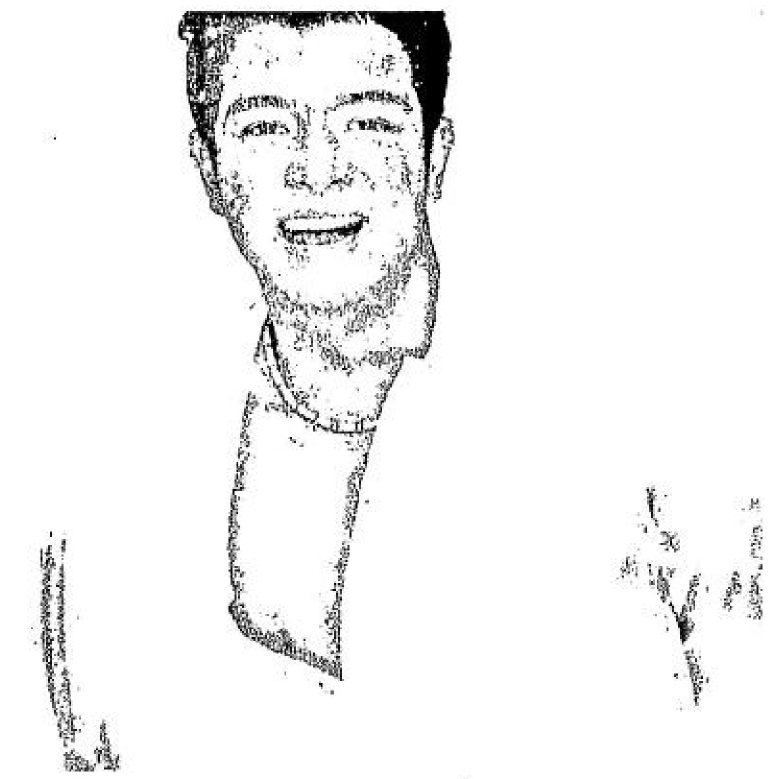
"It's an honor for me to work with *direk* Marilou," says Jericho, 23. "She was very patient with me and the other cast. She never shouted. She guided me throughout the filming of the movie. She was like a mother to us on the set."

To prepare for the role, Jericho has three whole-day sessions with the marines in Fort Bonifacio, where he learned basic military drills and tactics.

As a boy, Jericho dreamed of becoming a jet fighter. Now he also wants to play a superhero similar to Spiderman, one of his childhood icons.

"This is a different kind of role," Jericho says of his "Bagong Buwan" character. "I hope to be able to do meatier roles in future projects."

"Bagong Buwan" is a joint production of Star Cinema and Bahaghari Productions. Others in the cast are **Amy Austria, Caridad Sanchez, Carlo Aquino, Ronnie Lazaro, Jodi Santamaria, Nonie Buencamino** and **Jhong Hilario.**



ROSALES. Gets another big movie break in "Bagong Buwan"

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

Pops-Martin loyalist

MAYETTE L. Ferrer, an ever-loyal fan of **Martin Nievera** and **Pops Fernandez,** reacts to the news that Pops has a French suitor who was her date during the recent concert of **Franco Laurel** at Music Museum.

Ferrer said she wrote to this column after she read that Pops, Martin and their sons **Robin** and **Ram** would all be together on Christmas Day.

"It was nice to read your story about Martin and Pops (Showbiz Tidbits – 12/02/01)," Ferrer writes. "I'm glad they will be together with their kids on Christmas Day, but I'm also sad to hear from my friend who watched Franco's show that Pops had a foreigner date, a French suitor.

"She also admitted on 'The Buzz' last Sunday that she and the guy are in the getting-to-know-each-other stage. I felt terrible bad about Pops' admission. I somehow lost hope that she and Martin will still reconcile.

"I was happy when I saw their pictures in magazines and newspapers attending the same parties and events as well as hosting 'Asap' together and singing in the show. I thought there was something more.

"But I will still keep on praying and my prayers can move mountains, all obstacles. I remain loyal and faithful to Martin and Pops.

"I will try to catch Pops' concert at Onstage in January.

"Advance happy birthday to Pops (Dec. 12) and belated to Robin (Nov. 30)."

POWER PLANT
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Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

ROCKSTAR - P 13 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40	MONSTERS, INC. - GP 11:05, 1:10, 3:15, 5:20, 7:25, 9:30	HARRY POTTER - GP 11:30, 2:40, 5:50, 9:00
THE MUSKETEER - P 13 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	MONSTERS, INC. - GP 12:10, 2:15, 4:20, 6:25, 8:30	THE SCORE - R 18 11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri.,11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

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BAHAY NI LOLA
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JAMES BLANCO MAYBELYN DELA CRUZ MAXENE MAGALONA MIKO SOTTO ISABELLA DE LEON WITH ALAN K
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY URO Q. DELA CRUZ
REGAL ENTERTAINMENT, INC.

COMING SOON !
Official Entry
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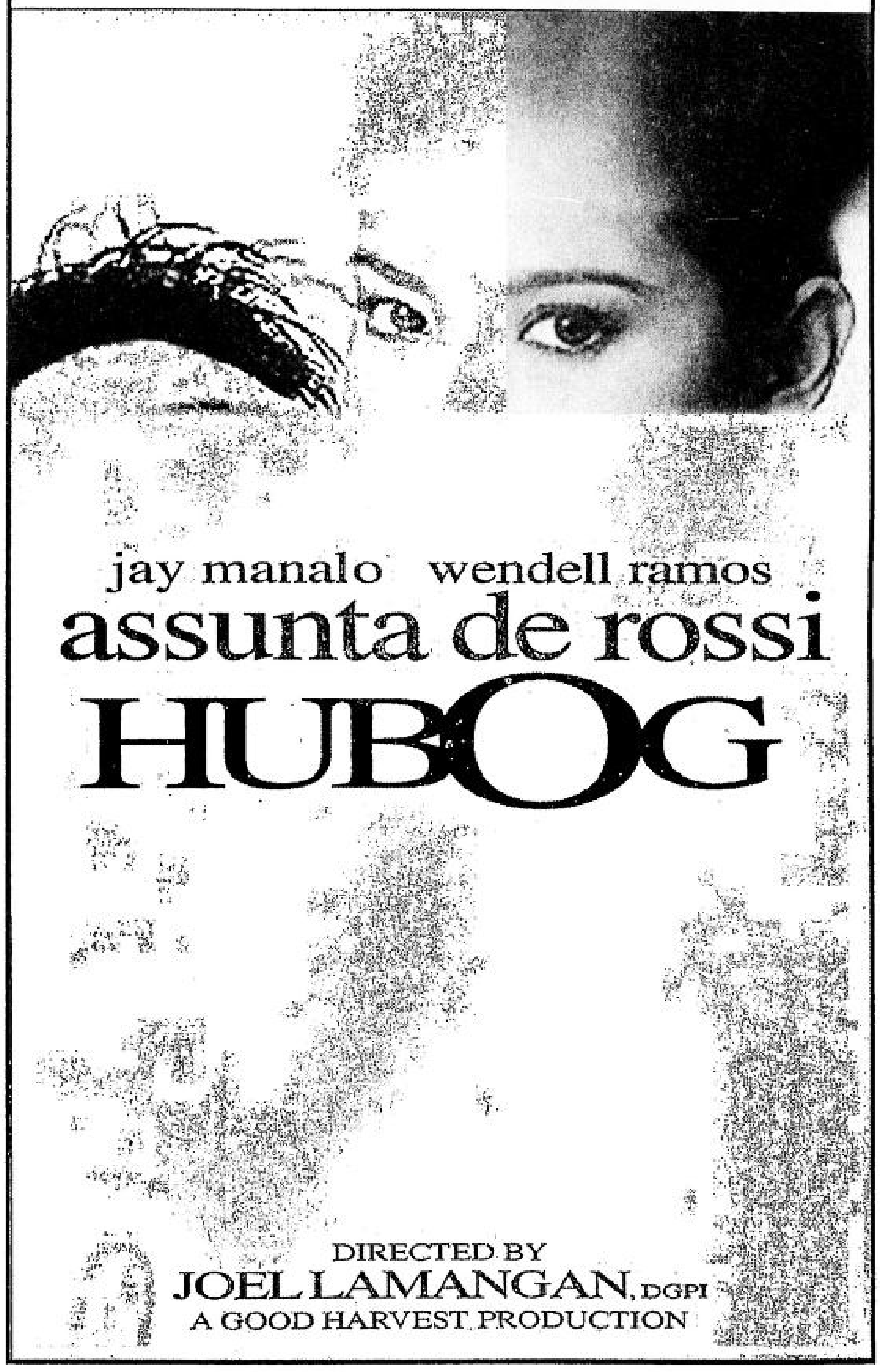

jay manalo wendell ramos
assunta de rossi
HUBOG
DIRECTED BY
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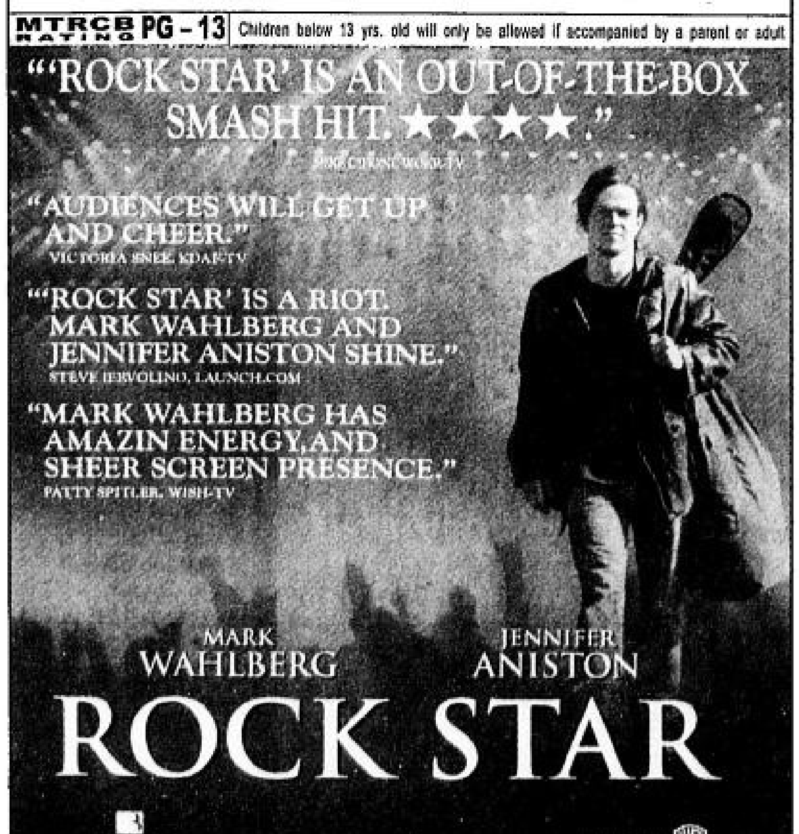

"'ROCK STAR' IS AN OUT-OF-THE-BOX SMASH HIT. ★★★★."
"AUDIENCES WILL GET UP AND CHEER."
VICTORIA SNEE, KDAF-TV
"'ROCK STAR' IS A RIOT. MARK WAHLBERG AND JENNIFER ANISTON SHINE."
STEVE IERVOLINO, LAUNCH.COM
"MARK WAHLBERG HAS AMAZIN ENERGY, AND SHEER SCREEN PRESENCE."
PATTY SPITLER, WISH-TV
MARK WAHLBERG
JENNIFER ANISTON
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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Raymond wins best actor in Asian TV Awards

RAYMOND Bagatsing won the best actor trophy in the recently concluded Asian TV Awards held in Singapore last Dec. 4.

Raymond won for his moving performance of a young man suffering from the crippling disease called "Distonia," in the Maalaala Mo Kaya" episode for ABS-CBN.

Previously, Raymond won two best actor awards from the Urian for "Milagros" in 1997 and "Kriminal ng Barrio Concepcion" in 1998.

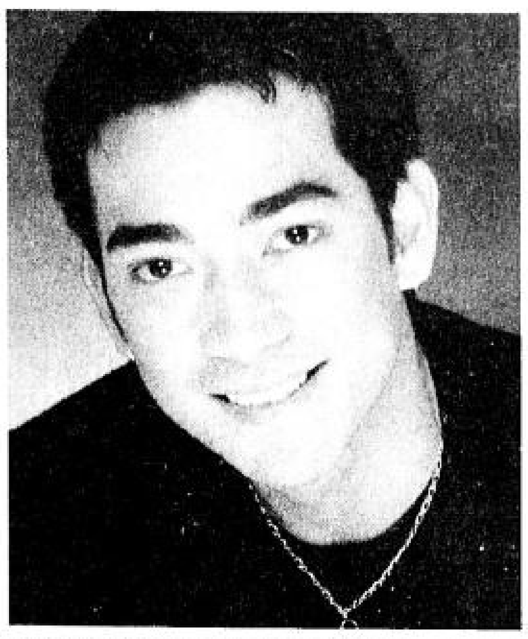
Raymond also won two best supporting actor awards from the Film Academy of the Philippines and Famas for his original and incomparable work in "Soltera," plus two best actor awards from the Academic Community (Sineng-Sine Pasado Award) for his stirring performance in "Burlesk King" and "Kriminal ng Barrio Concepcion."

Raymond, who is being managed by Act Entertainment, is bound for Australia to enjoy the holidays with his wife, actress Lara Fabregas and to study TV and film directing.

In 2002, Raymond's company, Act Entertainment Inc., will mount a diverse series of events.

He is set to revive his theater career by playing Tony Javier in the CCP Production of "Portrait of the Artist as a Filipino," to be directed by Anton Juan.

Later in the year, he will tackle William Shakespeare's "Hamlet," to be directed by his manager Francis O. Villacorta.



BAGATSING. Played a man suffering from a crippling disease in a "Maalaala Mo Kaya" episode.

Love those monsters

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WHY do children love to see movies and TV shows about monsters? To look back even earlier, why have fairy tales involving monsters, evil witches and other vengeful and threatening figures of the netherworld had such a strong impact on young listeners?

Psychologists say that one reason is the fact that those stories allow kids to deal with their fears in a fictional situation that they can snap out of, or control.

Due to these much-needed "rehearsal" and "escape hatch" elements, kids have a fear-love relationship with monsters.

For this reason, even educational TV shows like "Sesame Street" have employed monster characters in a big way, using them to attract young viewers, who can then be taught lessons that they might otherwise find boring.

Note, however, that the monsters on shows like "Sesame Street" aren't grim Frankenstein types, but colorful, funny, bumbling—in other words, not really creatures to be afraid of, but more like big, brash pals whom kids can play with and even take into their confidence.

This is the breezy, brassy attitude that the makers of the current film, "Monsters, Inc.," have adopted for themselves, thus explaining the movie's popularity with young viewers.

In addition, the production has other touches that further heighten children's interest. One major plus is the film's fresh and audacious twist to the old monster fairy tale format—namely, that monsters scare kids because they enjoy it.

In this movie's entertainingly different view, monsters terrify children because it's their job. They collect kids' screams in containers which then provide the power to light up the city of Monsteropolis, and run its machines.

An additional twist is the fun conceit that, when push comes to shove, it's actually the monsters who are terrified of children, because they have been led to believe that they are toxic.

This big, brash, and cheerfully impudent story focuses on two specific monsters—big, hairy Sulley and rotund, one-eyed Mike.

When a little girl named Boo manages to slip into their world, they are the ones who have to protect her from all the other monsters, who want to get rid of them before she kills them all (or so they think).

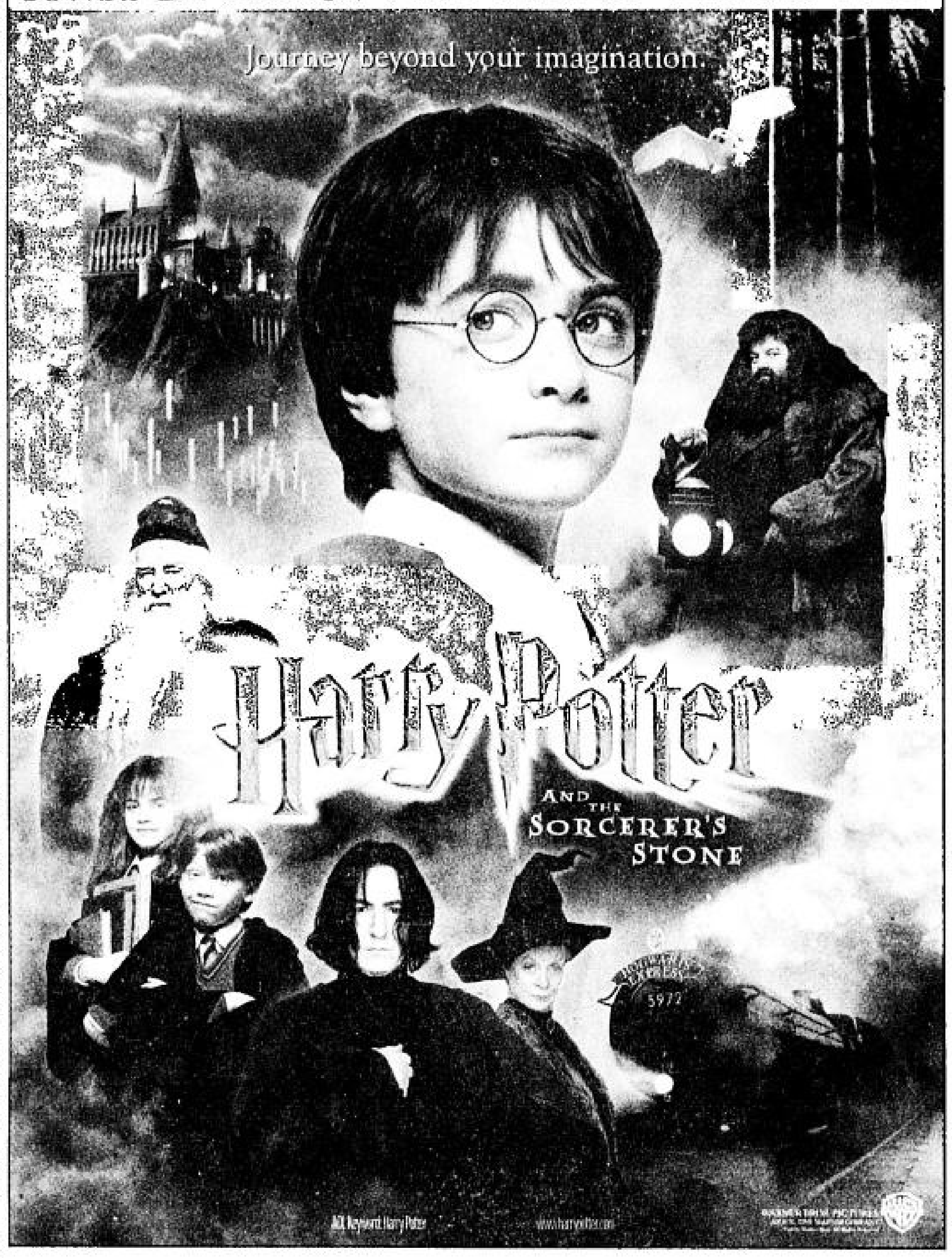
In the process, Sulley and Boo develop a warm and even loving relationship. When they get separated toward the end of the film, they miss each other like heck. So we know that the movie won't end on that bittersweet note.

"Monsters, Inc." has a lively, sassy storytelling style that is matched by its colorful, inventive visuals. More, the visualizations evince impres

LOVE/ A25

NOW SHOWING NATIONWIDE !

MTRCB RATING GP General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED



CINEMANILA 2001
INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

December 7 -16, 2001 Greenbelt & Glorietta Cinemas, Makati City

DECEMBER 9 (SUNDAY) SCREENING SCHEDULE

Time	Greenbelt 1	Greenbelt 3	Glorietta 4
11:40AM	Chunhyang (Korea) R-18	Spinning Gasing (Malaysia) R-18	Return to Pontianak (Singapore) PG -13
2:10PM	Divine (Mexico) R-18	Disoriented (USA) PG-13	The Foul King (Korea) R-18
4:40PM	The Price of Milk (New Zealand) G	Erotic Tales (Germany) R-18	No Man's Land (Belgium) PG-13
7:10PM	Detector (Norway) R-18	Too Much Sleep (USA) PG-13	Farinelli (Belgium)
9:40PM	Jan Dara (Thailand)	Attack the Gas Station (Korea) PG-13	The King is Dancing (Belgium)

DECEMBER 10 (MONDAY) SCREENING SCHEDULE

Time	Greenbelt 1	Greenbelt 3	Glorietta 4
11:40AM	The Map of Sex & Love (Hong Kong) R-18	The Foul King (Korea) R-18	Firefly Dreams (Japan) PG-13
2:10PM	Erotic Tales (Germany) R-18	Detector (Norway) R-18	Too Much Sleep (USA) PG-13
4:40PM	Attack the Gas Station (Korea) PG-13	Barking Dogs Never Bite (Korea) PG-13	Disoriented (USA) PG-13
7:10PM	Divided We Fall (Czech Republic)	Return to Pontianak (Singapore) PG-13	The Price of Milk (New Zealand) G
9:40PM	Divine (Mexico) R-18	Erotic Tales (Germany) R-18	The Isle (Korea) R-18

DECEMBER 10 GREENBELT PREVIEW ROOM SEMINAR & SCREENING SCHEDULE

1:30PM	Symposium Philippine Digital Cinema w/ Milo Paz, Ellen Ongkeko Marfil, Gil Portes, Abe Pagtama, David Maquiling, Jon Red
4:00 PM	Films by 63 COLLECTIVE, group of Filipino American Filmmakers "Embrace Madness", "Passport", "She", "Dirty", "How"
5:00PM	"The Sky is Falling" by Christopher Ad Castillo (USA/Philippines)
6:00PM	"The Last Parian" By Peter Chua (Philippines, documentary)
8:00PM	"First Night Shift" by Hubert Cheng (USA/Philippines) "La Vida Rosa" by Chito Roño

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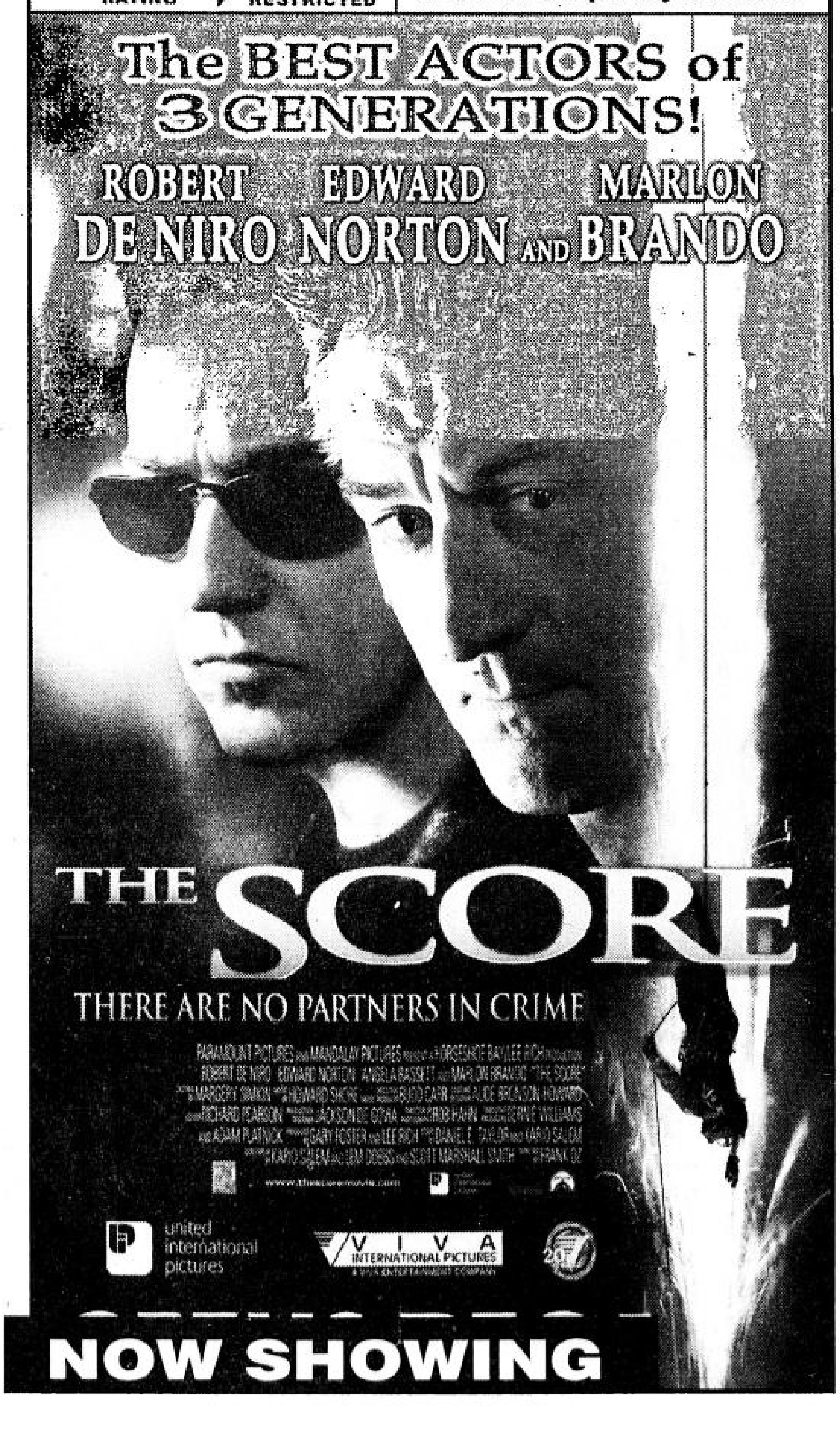

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Sunday BIZ

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ▨ MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

CONCEPCION with US Secretary of State Colin Powell

CEO used to sell popcorn

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

TO MANY professional managers, they are considered a recurring nightmare—children of the owner (COO) of a corporation, SOBs (sons of the boss), who go straight from school to a top-rank position in their father's or grandfather's company.

FIRST JOB

Rightly or wrongly, they don't get much respect from the old-timers who feel that they have not done anything yet to deserve the position they have. Their bloodline, they believe, is their only qualification.

Jose A. Concepcion III, grandson of RFM Corp. founder Don Salvador Araneta, was acutely aware of these concerns when he graduated from De La Salle University with a degree in Business Management.

So he decided to take on a different route.

Instead of plunging right into the family corporation, he put up Hori-

CEO/ B4

THE CONCEPCION family with wife Marissa and children Christian, Margarita, Monica and Catherine.

'OH MY GULAY!'

Not only profit but also heart

THE SIX young people behind the new food venture called "Oh My Gulay!" were not just being cute when they decided on its name.

They were brainstorming for a handle when someone sighed and muttered that so-Pinoy take on the American interjection "by golly"—and it was instantly "eureka!"

But while amused at the serendipitous way they stumbled on the phrase, they were convinced that it captured their vision of promoting healthy eating and, at the same time, raising public awareness on animal rights, on protection of the environment, and on world hunger brought about by dwindling natural resources.

It can't be difficult to guess: "Oh My Gulay!" offers vegetarian products—and, you could say, a lot of heart.

Pia and Joel Noche, Zeena Panares and Benjie Garcia, Lyra Abueg Garcellano and Eduardo Enriquez are initially offering home-made dips and sauces such as pesto (basil, garlic and cashew nuts in olive oil), cream cheese laced with herbs and seasonings, and hummus (a garbanzo bean paste with sesame seeds in olive oil).

Vegemeat is also on the for-sale list, mainly because many of their friends and acquaintances don't know where to find it. By January, they would have finalized details on catering for small lunches and dinners and art launchings and openings.

It was at one such exhibit opening, where they found that, again, "there was nothing to eat" from among the *pica-pica* served, that the idea of putting up a vegetarian food venture budded.

They are convinced that the art scene provides a ready market because a big number of artists are in various stages of vegetarianism, like themselves. (Eduardo, for example, has been a lacto-ovo vegetarian and animal rights advocate for the past 10 years. Zeena is also lacto-ovo by virtue of her being a Taoist. Lyra dropped red meat from her diet in the course of her stay in California and New York, and carried over the practice when she came home—a logical conclusion, she says, for people who keep pets and care for them.)

They're quick to say that their enthusiasm is not fueled primarily by profit. The consuming idea is "doing something good not just for oneself but also for others." Which is why they are also producing brochures and flyers and distributing these to fulfill their mission of raising awareness on the crucial link between vegetarianism and the crying need for the care of the planet. And which is why, to the question of whether they could be biting off more than they could chew, they answer with a perplexed earnestness: "But that's what idealism is about!"

NOT/ B4

FROM selling dips and sauces, the group will be open to small catering jobs starting next year.

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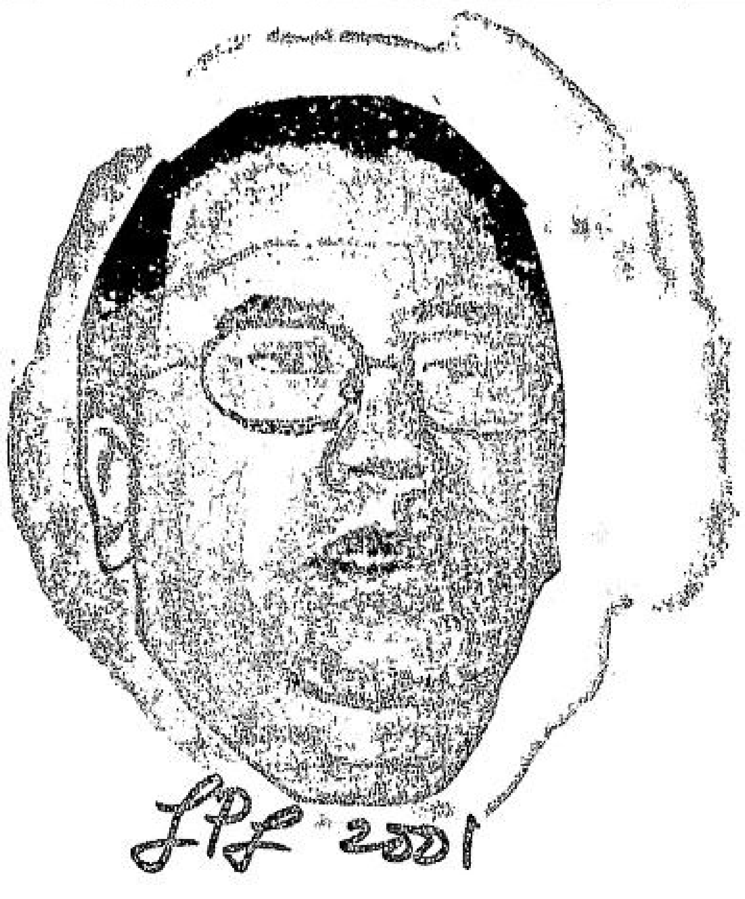
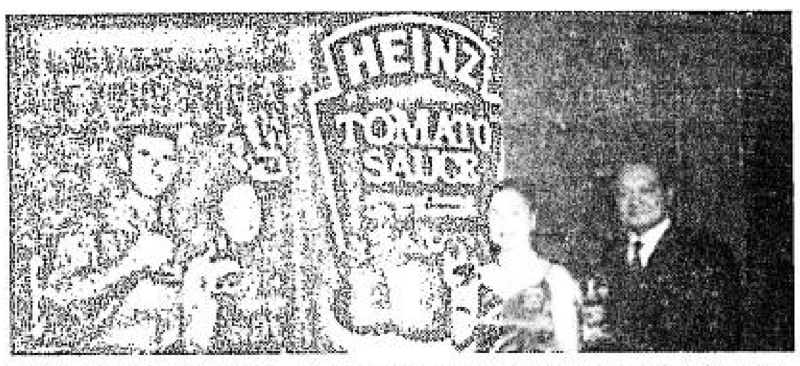
IN YOUR FACE BY L. P. LEVISTE



VIVA Films and Viva TV head Vic del Rosario hit a jackpot with his top rating game shows -- Who wants to be a millionaire and The Weakest Link at Channel 13. The two bigger networks -- ABS-CBN's Channel 2 and GMA's Channel 7 are merely following suit instead of coming up with newer programming.



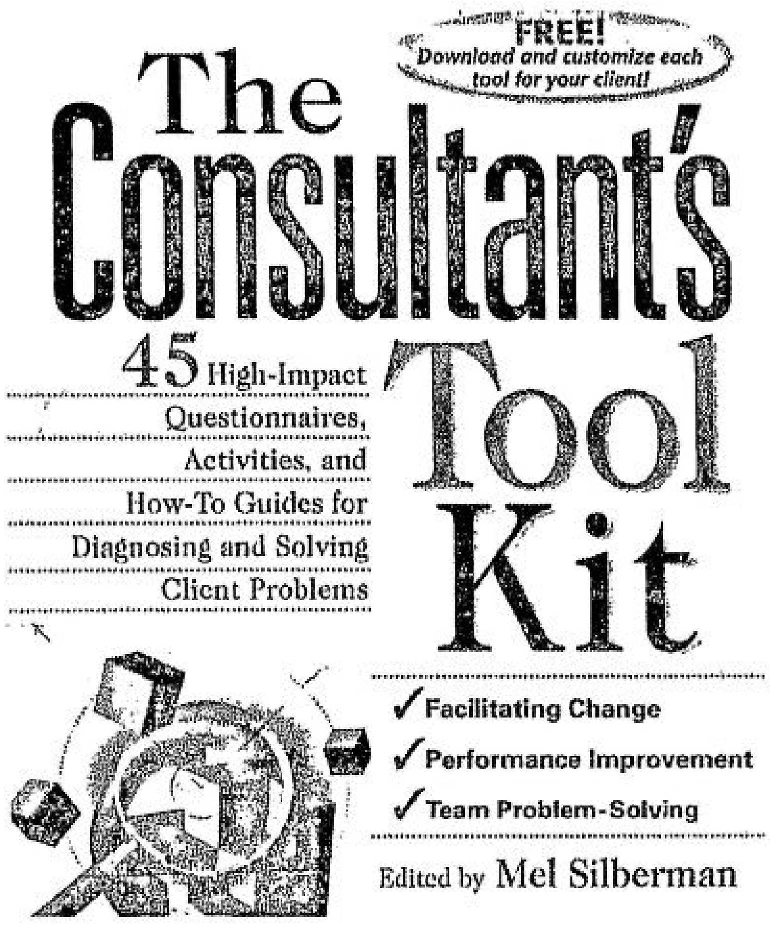
TOP Executives of HJ Heinz Company and Heinz UFC Philippines, Inc. are poised for a toast after unveiling their latest product lines—Heinz Tomato Sauce, Heinz Tomato Paste and Heinz Spaghetti Sauce—during the product launch held recently at Dish In Rockwell, Makati City. With its famous sauces, ketchup and condiments, Heinz is widely described as the "world's number one premium, high-quality brand of packaged red sauces and condiments," which are popular in over 200 major locations worldwide. From left are Hank Lockard, Heinz regional food service director; Shareena Roman, Heinz UFC marketing director; Jane Bernardo, group product manager; and Cito Alejandro, president and chief operating officer.

EXECUTIVE READ

Consulting work in bite-size options

"The Consultants Tool Kit"
Edited by Mel Silberman
McGraw-Hill, 2001

BY DANTE M. VELASCO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Edited by Mel Silberman

CONSULTANTS abound in the business world—and are, in the main, truly of help to organizations seeking the cutting edge in their strategy, managing change to cope with a profoundly altered environment, realizing new efficiencies in operations, making inroads into new markets—and a host of other solutions.

While most consultants, no doubt, have a place in the scheme of things in business, some are favorite targets of wit and jests—especially when they prove themselves superfluous in a world where the bottom line is non-negotiable.

A humorist, Jeanne Robertson, defines consultant as "someone who borrows your watch and charges to tell you the time"—a definition that points to consulting work that, at best, overstates the obvious or, at worst, needlessly doubles the work.

Arnold Glasow points to consultants' fees, saying: "A consultant is someone who saves his client almost enough to pay his fee."

Be that as it may, consultants will be around for a long, long time. Their importance in the corporate mainstream is such that US business spends over $3 billion annually on consultants. We don't have the figures on consultants' compensation in Philippine business, but the proliferation of auditing firms doubling up as consultants—aside from counselors in marketing drives, IT, change management, risk handling, corporate communications, etc.—proves that our consultants are also handsomely paid.

Which should really be the case, if you ask me, if such consultants prove to be corporate turnaround artists, marketing wizards and productivity experts with positive impact on rising revenues and falling costs.

The message, therefore, is for consultants to continually prove their worth—and thus continually sharpen their skills, expand their scope and deepen their knowledge of the business.

There is a book that will prove useful to consultants hereabouts—"The Consultants Tool Kit." Veteran players in the game need it to assure them that not a single consultancy service is missed.

New entrants in the consulting business will need it, not only to start right, but to know the full range of services they can offer.

For example, Part I alone, provides the reader 13 assessment questionnaires—from finding out if the firm's "business strategy makes sense" to establishing the "client's leadership competencies."

Consultants are in the best position to make such assessments—first, because they have the advantage of detachment and objectivity; and second, management at times would not dare "rock the boat" themselves.

From evaluating the firm's operations in various areas, the consultant is also treated to "how-to guides" for solving client's problems. There! Consultants are supposed to have a "bag of tricks" or a "panacea" to companies' lingering problems.

You may not cure all, but at least your methodology creates the climate of an entire company geared for solutions. Before you know it, proving once again the theory of "self-fulfilling prophecy," the company is well on its way to stumbling into the ultimate solution.

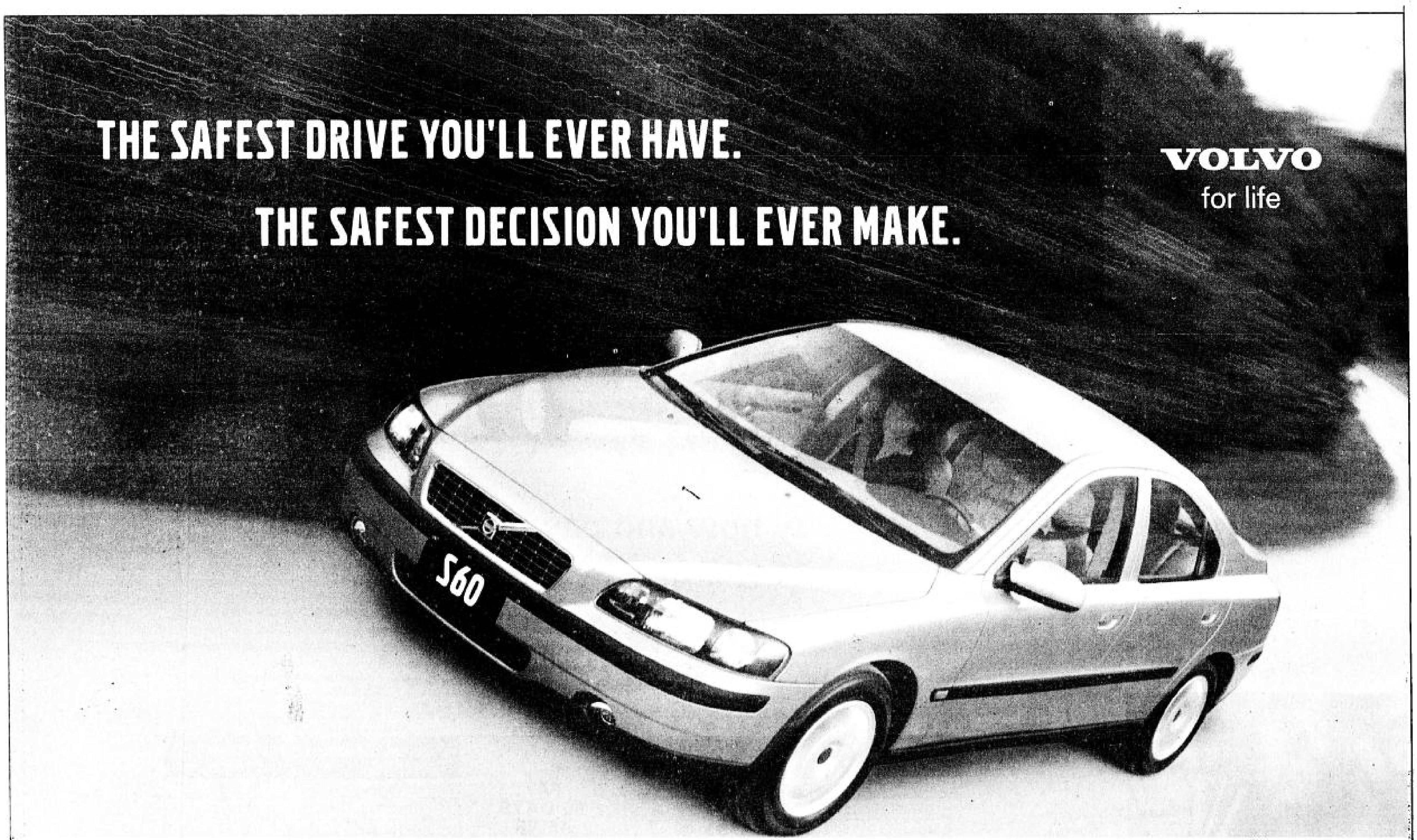
You have a menu of from "how to lead effective meetings" (do you think it's ever easy?) to "how to move your client from training to performance improvement." This proceeds from the established fact that "training alone is insufficient to bridge most performance gaps." Editor Mel Silberman, Ph.D., points out that "trainers need to develop more comprehensive interventions that include incentive systems, communication technologies, environmental redesign," etc.

Finally, Part III, offers 17 "intervention activities to increase your client's effectiveness." This is a section for facilitators for various group activities that enhance their skills and deepen their insights on quality, team-building, organizational change, dealing with resistance, etc. Who says business is not fun? These exercises lead them to solve puzzles, read people's minds and hurdle many forms of resistance—ala-"Survivor Africa."

This book of 354 pages is full of insights, suggestions and illustrations all the way into the 354th page. The editor, featuring 45 top professionals in their fields, wasted no space in giving the veteran or start-up consultant all the consultant needs to start with a strong beginning, sustain his consulting practice, and make him or her enjoy every engagement that follows.

Did you ever think consulting work is the refuge of the retiree, the unemployed, the "corporate isolate"? Think again. If you get hold of this tool kit, you will realize consulting work is a world of vast possibilities where you can try almost anything. But, first things first:

Make a persuasive pitch for your prospective client to try your "new idea." And then, when you get the client's green light, give the job your best shot, decide that you will enjoy the entire exercise, truly bring your client to a new level of success or growth. You will realize that the financial rewards are simply side benefits. *(dantemv@i-next.net)*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Cement firm turns Cebu white

FRESH from their Manila Polo Club launch, the Cemex Philippines Group of Companies, manufacturers of Cemex White Cement, set their sights on the Queen City of the South: Cebu.

After speeches by Marcelino Ugarte, commercial manager for Visayas and Mindanao, and Gerardo Beloso, commercial director for Visayas and Mindanao, the curtains rose to reveal a stage focusing on Cemex White Cement.

Technical services manager John Necessario was present to guide the audience through Cemex White Cement's myriad of uses and applications.

Ambassador Enrique Hubbard of the Mexican Embassy with his wife; Honorary Consul of Cebu to Mexico Luis Ugarte with his wife Janet, Honorary Consul of Cebu to Spain and journalist Jaime Picornell were in attendance that evening.

Also present at the launch were Cebu's leading architects, interior decorators and building contractors.

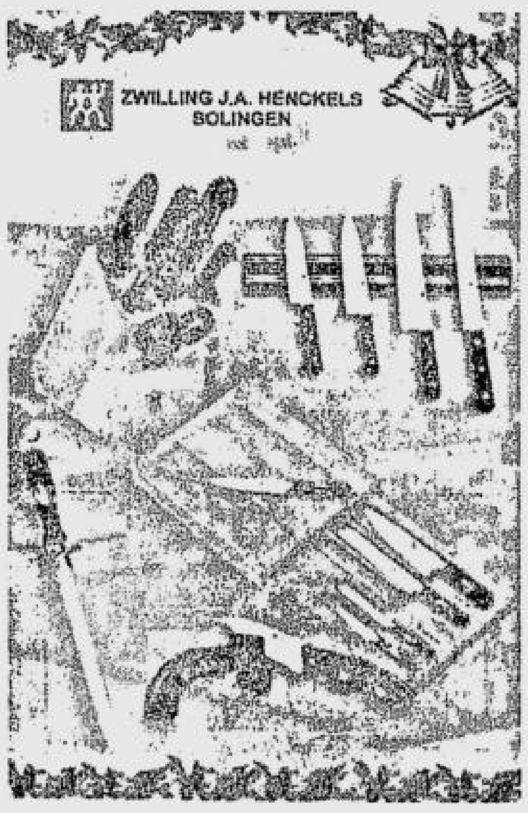
These include Wally Liu of Primary Structures; Glenn and Erma Natalary of Southport Builders; Leon Coo of L Hardware; Helen Fusingan of St. Martin Hardware; Kim and Edgar Martinez of Kreemar Enterprises (who were also given a special citation for being Cemex White Cement's first distributors in the region); Danford Sy of New Ban Yek Commercial; and Tony Wong of Cebu Taboan Hardware.

Also there to show support were Cemex Philippines Group of Companies CEO Francisco Cue, Cemex Philippines vice president for concrete and commercial Alberto Nuñez, vice president for operations and technical Nicky

CEMENT/B5

ALL SMILES. (From left) Reich Oberiano (Cemex Area sales manager), Aurelio Ramos, Francisco Cue (CEO Cemex Phils.) and Marcelino Ugarte (commercial manager, Cemex Phils.)

CEMEX CEO Francisco Cue (left), with Mexican Ambassador Enrique Hubbard, Spanish Consul Jaime Picornell and Alberto Nuñez (VP, Cemex Phils.)



There's more to a knife than cutting

HOUSEHOLD tools reveal a lot about a people's culture and lifestyle, personality and habits. When preparing for special occasions, we feverishly polish our cutlery and put our best flatware forward. But the real test is in making sure that kitchen tools are properly cared for everyday so that they will last and serve us longer.

From Zwilling J.A. Henckels Solingen, 270-year-old maker of the world's leading cutlery, here are a few helpful hints to keep your knives in excellent cutting condition:

- Choose the right cutting board. Solingen advises homemakers to use cutting boards with soft surfaces made of wood or synthetic. Hard surfaces like glass, ceramics, china, metal/marble/granite or anything similar can cause lasting damage to blades and cutting edges. Never misuse or abuse your knives—they are your partners in the kitchen.
- Keep clean. The best care you can give your knives is to clean them by hand. Right after use, especially after cutting acidic food such as lemon. Put the knives under lukewarm running water with a drop of dishwashing agent—this is the simplest and most effective way to clean your knives. Make sure to dry your cutting tools thoroughly.
- Storage safety. When storing your knives, four elements are required: safety of the blade, security, cleanliness and comfort. To meet these crucial factors of proper knife-keeping, you can use high quality knife blocks or, if mounted to the wall, durable magnetic racks.
- Keep 'em sharp. Even the sharpest knives will lose the initial performance over time. So resharpen your cutting tools every now and then using a first-rate sharpening steel. Always remember: a sharp knife is safer than a dull one.

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CEO used to sell popcorn

(From page B1)

zons Corp., a small company selling popcorn, shaved ice with flavor and cotton candy. He put it up with P100,000 in capital in 1981 with his then girlfriend Marissa Orosa, who later became his wife.

It was Joey's first taste of earning his own money and it provided him enough money to finance his lifestyle. He tells SundayBiz that he does not remember anymore how much he got from the company, but stresses that he was not really into it for the money, but more for the experience.

"I did not want to join my father's company immediately because I wanted to do something first on my own. It was more for my self respect and to prove to myself that I can do it on my own outside the family," Concepcion says.

Concepcion spent almost four years nurturing the business full time until 1981 when he finally joined RFM at 23.

"I felt a little bit more confident joining RFM after my experience with my own company because I am now coming in with more experience. I wanted to do it this way because I did not want people saying that I am only here because my father owned the company," he stresses.

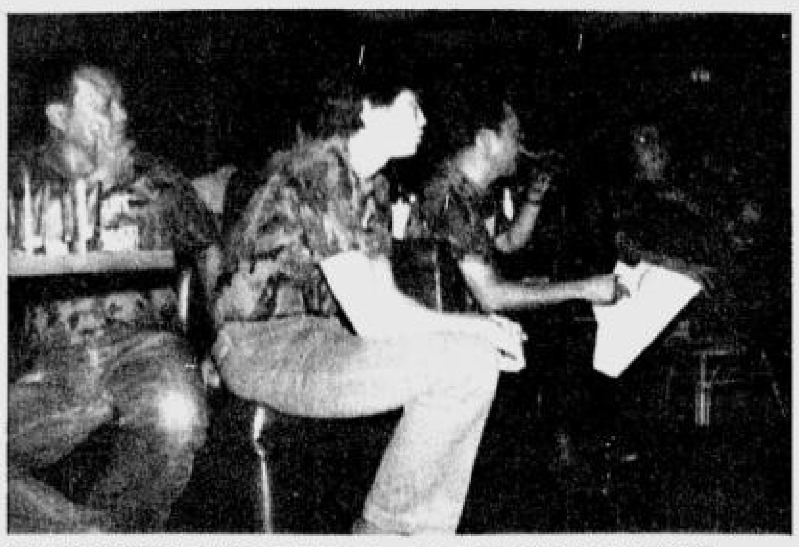
From the ranks

Concepcion's first assignment was to help in the flour business, which was the heart and soul of RFM's business at that time. He stayed there for about three years working his way up to become plant manager.

He was paid a starting salary of P8,000.

He then moved to become a salesman of Swift's, the processed meat division of the conglomerate, and later as the head of the sales department.

"I was moved from one division to another, learning everything from administration to finance to operations as part of my training. Looking back it was a very valuable experience because I got to know what the employees felt first hand and what the customers wanted because I dealt directly with them," he says.



CONCEPCION during a grocery sales rally program in 1983.

With all that training under his belt, he felt psychologically prepared to take on the responsibility of executive vice president of the company when his father was recruited by the Aquino administration to head the Department of Trade and Industry.

To management

Concepcion says he joined RFM's management with a lot of ideas and he was aggressive enough to try and push them through, sometimes with a lot of difficulty.

"From day one, my vision was to take RFM away from just flour milling because I thought that it was a sunset industry and that the times when we were raking it in from flour are long past. I thought that RFM should expand into branded items or to look at new businesses," Concpecion says.

Not many in the company agreed with his views but as he says, he can be very persistent. Thus, RFM bought Selecta and Cosmos Bottling Corp. at about the same time that Concepcion became president of the company in 1989 at the ripe old age of 29.

"We bought Selecta at the time when Magnolia cornered more than 90 percent of the ice cream business, and Coke and Pepsi had about 98 percent of the market. People found us stupid and crazy to do it but I really felt that it was the right way to go for RFM," he says.

This was also the reason behind RFM's diversification to information technology (PSi Technologies), banking (Consumer Banking Corp.), real estate (Philippine Townships Inc.) and even franchising (Asia Food Franchising Corp.).

Concepcion fought tooth and nail to convince management and shareholders to agree with his plan and to eventually agree to shell out billions in pesos in capital expenditures to build the two businesses.

His decision turned out to be the right one at that time. In almost 13 years since RFM bought Selecta, it has overtaken Magnolia in the No. 1 spot in the ice cream market.

Cosmos, on the other hand, has become the second biggest softdrinks manufacturer next to behemoth Coca-Cola.

RFM, thus, has increased its sales from a P2-billion company in sales from chicken and flour in the 1980s to a P24-billion company last year with Cosmos under its belt.

Aggressive

"I was very young at that time when I became president and because I was young, I was more aggressive. I was willing to risks and to take on challenges. I felt that I had to prove myself again," he says.

The young Concepcion was under considerable pressure but he was strengthened by his belief in God and in preparing to make a good decision.

"I do a lot of work but you will just have to leave the rest to Him. I try to look at the signals to allow me to make a good decision. Like in the case of Cosmos and Selecta, I felt that the signals were there and I did a lot of prayer, too," he says.

Concepcion says working in a family corporation with public shareholders puts more pressure on him to perform.

And dealing with his fellow Concepcions who are opinionated and argumentative, as he says, does not make things easier.

"It can be nerve wracking at times to balance the many interests of many people especially during a crisis. Everybody has their needs, the family, the management, the employees, the public shareholders and the consumers. I have to balance these needs for the good of the company," he says.

CONCEPCION'S first Christmas party at RFM with his fellow employees in 1982

And balancing these needs, he says, means taking difficult and even painful decisions to make sure that he fulfills his mandate of increasing shareholder value.

One of these decisions was the sale of different subsidiaries to raise cash and to consolidate RFM's position amid a difficult economic environment.

RFM slowly sold off some of its "non-core" subsidiaries such as PSi Technologies, Consumer bank and later Cosmos, his baby among the subsidiaries.

"There was resistance to these decisions but we had to go through them. We just have to take these painful decisions because we have to work above our own personal interests. We always shave to look at the good of the company and the shareholders," he says.

"If you ask me, I still have mixed emotions about the decision to sell Cosmos but that's life," he says.

20-year veteran

Despite all the stress and the long nights, it has been a good life so far for the young Concepcion who was recently given a loyalty award for his 20-year service to the company.

His marriage to Marissa remains strong and he has his hands full with his brood of four—Christian (13), Margarita (11), Catherine (8) and Monica (5).

Concepcion says he and RFM are at a new stage in their lives.

RFM is leaner but stronger with no debts after the money comes in from the sale of Cosmos and a P5-billion war chest, and he a little less aggressive. At 42, he also now has more time to brood on his next moves.

"We are exploring opportunities right now for RFM. We are now at the same stage as we were when I started here. We are back to the drawing board to see which businesses we should get into, but we are a lot bigger than where we started," Concepcion says.

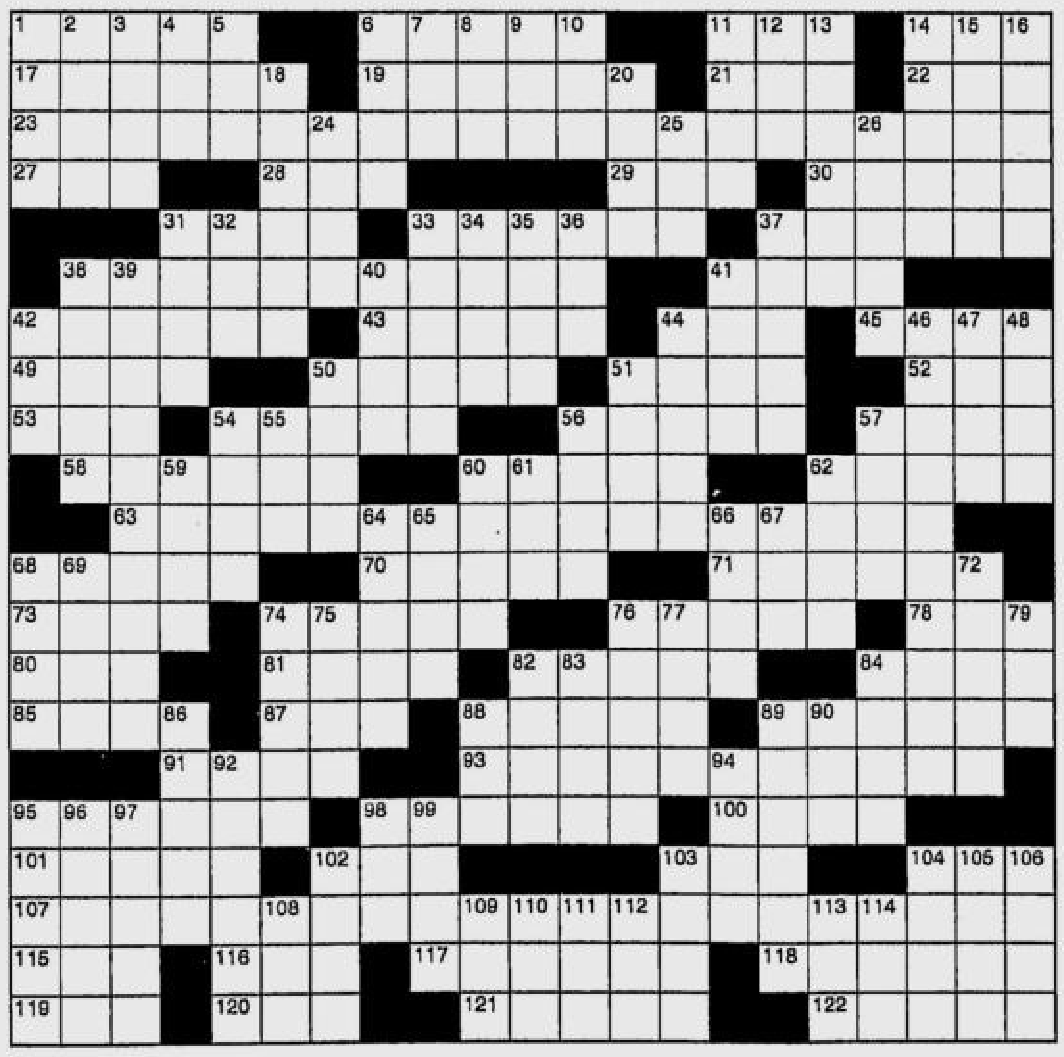
JOEY Concepcion III—the third generation to head RFM

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER Crossword

By Donna J. Stone

REVERSE PSYCHOLOGY



ACROSS
1 Beat into shape
6 Rent
11 Light touch
14 Baseball's Maglie
17 Ed of "Married ... with Children"
19 Novelist Leonard
21 Actress Hagen
22 Nav. rank
23 Start of a remark by 93 Across
27 Actor Chaney
28 —— Margaritas, Mexico
29 Nutritional abbr.
30 Deck of destiny
31 "— Coming" ('69 song)
33 Holy
37 Tranquil
38 Part 2 of remark
41 Like Kojak
42 Chilliwack's country
43 See 35 Down
44 Slippery swimmer
45 Orthodox image
49 Pakistani language
50 — Carta
51 Shoe type
52 Pindaric poem
53 Hum bug?
54 Mideastern rulers
56 Tooth —
57 Energy source
58 Plant disease
60 Deli buy
62 Prelim
63 Part 3 of remark
68 Alaskan city
70 "Untouchable" Ness
71 "Seinfeld" character
73 — vera
74 Cheerleader's maneuver
76 Hands (out)
78 Gnome's kin
80 Troop grp.
81 Buster Brown's dog
82 Florida city
84 Maugham's "The Razor's —"
85 Disney dog
87 — standstill
88 Jeremy of "Brideshead Revisited"
89 Combat mission
91 Give off
93 Speaker of remark
95 Fix
98 One of the Judds
100 Smell — (be suspicious)
101 Gather
102 Fast flier
103 Singer Sumac
104 Large tub
107 End of remark
115 Canterbury can
116 Past
117 Peanut
118 Natural gas component
119 Bristol brew
120 Comics' noise
121 Demi or Dudley
122 Hook on a hawk

DOWN
1 Thwart
2 In the know
3 Pull the Trigger?
4 "M*A*S*H" extras
5 Urban transport
6 Tourists' neckwear
7 "Nightmare" street
8 Current unit
9 Impresario Hurok
10 Before, to Byron
11 Sousaphone's cousin
12 Tucked in
13 Soft tone
14 Induce the jitters
15 Chef's shield?
16 Lenya or Lehmann
18 Actress Davidovich
20 Raison d'—
24 Obi, for instance
25 Curious
26 — Gras
31 Son of Isaac
32 Inc., in England
33 Unexpected obstacles
34 Related
35 With 43 Across, famed puppeteer
36 Env. abbr.
37 Like some pretzels
38 Martin or Leto
39 Grasped
40 Steel beam
41 Endure
42 Tiny tiger
44 Yale or Root
46 Began to like
47 Redolence
48 Verne captain
50 Baseball essential
51 Express
54 Humorist Bombeck
55 Curly poker?
56 '78 Stallone flick
57 Pro foe
59 Draft device
60 Make argyles
61 — Dinh Diem
62 Lupino and Cantor
64 Hagar the Horrible's wife
65 First name in tennis
66 Actress Wilson
67 — de France
68 Novelist Bellow
69 "Casablanca" character
72 — Marbles
74 Flight segment
75 English statesman
76 Virile
77 In addition
79 Charge
82 Spoken
83 Command to Fido
84 Formerly, formerly
86 It makes rye high
88 Adjective suffix
89 Juan's wrap
90 "Sat — tuffet . . ."
92 Accident
94 Siren
95 Dreadlocked one
96 High-tech missives
97 Singer Freda
98 Horse's relative
99 Forest father
102 February forecast
103 Knight time
104 Perfume bottle
105 Periodic table abbr.
106 MTV viewer
108 — trip
109 — Kippur
110 Overly
111 Cable channel
112 Ending for "auction"
113 Legendary Giant
114 — Na Na

ANSWER ON PAGE B5

Give the gift of health this holiday season

GIFT GIVING can be stressful and time-consuming, more so when you want to give the best and appropriate Christmas present for that special someone.

Healthway Medical Clinics offers a novel and impressive gift for young and old people alike, male or female. Healthway's Privilege Card is one Christmas present that will surely leave a lasting impression.

For only P950, the Privilege Card entitles the holder to extensive medical benefits such as free unlimited medical consultation with Healthway's pool of competent family physicians and one comprehensive annual physical exam that includes chest X-ray, urinalysis, fecalysis, complete blood count and full medical exam. Hefty discounts on laboratory and diagnostic tests as well as fixed professional fee of specialists at P250 are just few of the perks in being a Privilege Cardholder. Annual coverage is also provided without pre-acceptance medical examination or age limit required.

Getting a Privilege Card will not only benefit the recipient. Grantees from orphanage shall also benefit from the purchase as Healthway commits to give free medical examination and basic diagnostic exams to less fortunate children for every Privilege Card bought this season.

HEALTHWAY
MEDICAL CLINICS
PrivilegeCard

During these times when healthy living seems impractical for some people, Healthway Medical Clinics recommends giving health-boosting presents such as the Privilege Card which can spell a lifetime of difference.

Since your loved ones are precious and deserve only the best, get them a Privilege Card now at any Healthway Medical Clinics at Ayala Avenue, Greenbelt, Binondo, SM City, Alabang Town Center, Festival Mall and at the Laguna Technopark. *(For more details, call 893-7910, 893-7920 or 893-7940 and look for Eve Lunas.)*

Not only profit but also heart

(From page B1)

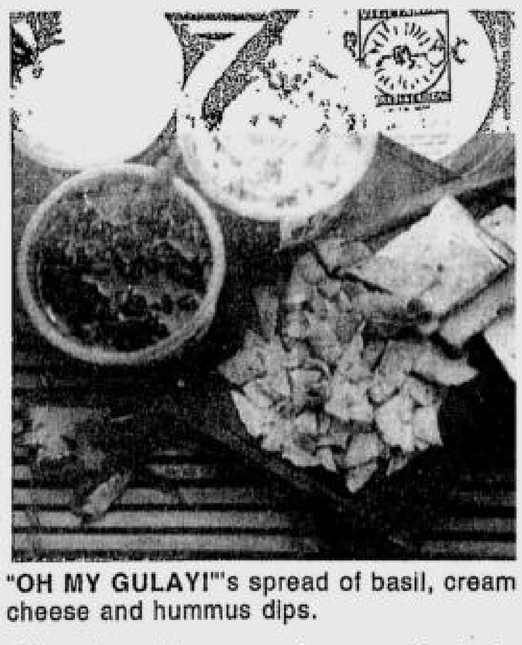
Yet they're hardly ascetic types wholly into grim-and-determined stuff. For vegetarian recipes, tips and other information, did you know that Einstein, Da Vinci and Mary Shelley were vegetarians, as are the likes of Kim Basinger, Alec Baldwin and Woody Harrelson? Interested consumers may visit www.geocities.com/oh_my_gulay_caterers or e-mail oh_my_gulay_caterers@yahoo.com.

Pretty much everyone in the group is able to cook, four of them being freelancers and theoretically in control of their time, but Pia, Zeena and Benjie are the ones truly comfortable in the kitchen.

For this business venture that is quite apart from Zeena's website designs, Lyra's installation art, or the engineering course that Joel teaches, they've scoured the warrens of Divisoria for equipment and what-not.

Now they're talking grams and garbanzos, and the virtues of cashew nuts as opposed to walnuts or tall containers as opposed to round ones, and, lately, studying the wonders of seaweed and making their own sushi.

Asked to draw up a hypothetical "Oh My Gulay!" menu for a special dinner, the group came up with this spread: a vegetable platter with pesto, hummus and cream cheese dips as appetizer; dalandan cooler to drink; for the main dish, a choice of vegetable paella or tossed salad and linguine with chili, mushrooms and garlic in olive oil; and banana and mango chunks in creamy sauce for dessert.



"OH MY GULAY!"'s spread of basil, cream cheese and hummus dips.

Light the scented candles, and *bon appetit*!

Rosario A. Garcellano

(Oh My Gulay! is offering its pesto, hummus and cream cheese dips at P85, P75 and P65, respectively, per 200-gram container. A set of three goes for the special price of P200. For orders, call 932-3856, 0917-2013231 or 0917-3775743.)

Coke, Pepsi try adding punch to water

CHICAGO—Beverage giants Coca-Cola Co. and PepsiCo Inc. are breaking out new artillery in their long-standing drinks war. It's fortified. It's purified. It's new and improved water.

PepsiCo's Gatorade unit plans a nationwide rollout of its Propel Fitness Water—a flavored water with vitamins—early next year, with bottles hitting store shelves in April, Gatorade officials told Reuters.

PepsiCo is also planning a market test of an enhanced Aquafina water in 2002, industry analysts and observers said.

At the same time, Coca-Cola is planning to test a flavored and enhanced version of its Dasani water in several markets, John Sicher, editor of industry newsletter Beverage Digest, said.

Drink makers are looking to water—the original and most basic drink—as a platform for growth, tapping into increasingly health conscious consumers who are looking for something extra to go with basic hydration.

"Figuring out how to capture a greater share of (the) water (market) is kind of the Holy Grail," Paul Crnkovich, partner at consumer products marketing consultancy Cannondale Associates, said.

Heavy guns or pop guns?

A spokesperson for Purchase, New York-based PepsiCo, the world's fifth largest food and beverage company, would not confirm plans for an enhanced Aquafina.

"Enhanced waters are a product of interest among our consumers, but it would be premature to discuss anything further at this time," the spokesperson, Bart Casabona, said.

A spokesperson for No. 1 beverage maker Coca-Cola in Atlanta did not return phone calls seeking comment on plans for Dasani.

Some analysts are skeptical about how much of a splash enhanced waters will make.

William Pecoriello, a beverage industry analyst now at Morgan Stanley, said earlier this year that in focus groups, some tasters were wary of cloudy enhanced water drinks.

While the bottled water sector has shown growth rates of about 30 percent in the past couple of years, it is not clear that enhanced waters will enhance growth.

"My guess is it will be incremental," Tim Drake, consumer products analyst at Banc One Investment Advisors, said. "I don't see this as a big boost to traffic or to volume in the water business."

He said results from test markets of Gatorade's Propel have been "okay" but not "booming."

But Mary Dillon, vice president of product offerings and new brands for Gatorade, said reaction to Propel in test markets is "well above" the benchmark for a successful new product.

Gatorade, which dominates the sports drink market, is gearing Propel toward people who want to stay hydrated while biking or engaging in other active endeavors, but who do not need Gatorade, Dillon said in an interview.

The drink, which comes in flavors like orange, black cherry and berry, has one-fifth the calories of Gatorade and fewer electrolytes. But it also contains B vitamins to aid in energy metabolism and antioxidants like vitamins C and E.

It is sweetened with sucralose, a no-calorie sweetener derived from sugar and the flavor helps encourage people to drink the water they need, Gatorade officials said.

"The consumer of Propel is someone who is very active and understands the value of hydration, but they're looking for alternatives," Dillon said.

A 16.9-ounce bottle will cost 99 cents, Gatorade said.

Is it water?

Having another source for some vitamins and nutrients in the diet is not a bad thing, nutrition experts said.

But consumers should not look to the waters as a replacement for a healthy diet. Some of the additional nutrients are better absorbed when taken with food, Linda Van Horn, professor of preventive medicine and a research nutritionist at Northwestern University medical school in Chicago, said.

She also noted that the people who would be most attracted to enhanced waters are people who are already health-conscious enough to get the nutrients in their diets.

"What we know from the data is the people who take vitamin supplements are the people who need them least," she said.

On the plus side, "water is a terrific beverage and people would be better off drinking these" rather than high-calorie sodas, said David Schardt, senior nutritionist for the center for Science in the Public Interest, a nonprofit consumer advocacy group.

Getting supplements like calcium and magnesium could be beneficial, he added.

But consumers may be paying unnecessarily for other additives, like vitamins they already get enough of. And some potential additives, like zinc to help immunity, can actually be harmful if taken in too high a dose, Schardt said.

"Manufacturers discovered a long time ago that they can make extra money by dumping into their products a fraction of a penny's worth of vitamins and jacking up the price," he said.

Water with enhancements like caffeine has been on the market for several years and some nutrient-enhanced waters are already on the market, sold by New York-based energy brands Inc. under the Glaceau name.

Reebok International Ltd. and Clearly Canadian Beverage Corp. sell Reebok Fitness Water, aimed at exercisers who want an energy-boosting drink but would rather skip the calories in sports drinks such as Gatorade.

"We're seeing a category which is in its infancy now, beginning a process of evolution," Sicher said. "Where this category goes, how it is defined, where the growth is, we may not know for several decades." ***Reuters***

PRODUCT manager Andre Nunziata and marketing and sales project manager Oliver Hugentobler.

F.E. Zuellig (M) Inc. general manager Luis L. Vargas

Luxury timepieces know no recession

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

THE rich will always be rich," says Luis L. Vargas, general manager of F.E. Zuellig (M) Inc., distributor of luxury watches Omega, Longines and Calvin Klein.

Which is why during hard times their lines which are affected are the lower priced and the mid-priced watches. For Omega, this means watches that cost P50,000 to P100,000.

Calvin Klein's price range is between P8,000 and P16,000; and Longines watches cost P30,000 to P80,000.

Nevertheless, Vargas says, they opted to maintain the advertising of these lines and especially their high-end ones.

Last Tuesday, F. E. Zuellig launched its latest and most expensive lines—the Omega De Ville with Co-axial escapement.

These watches cost over P150,000 to P590,000.

According to a press statement, "the heart of the new escapement is a double co-axial escape wheel and a new lever design with three ruby pallet-stones. This new technology reduces friction in the escapement and improves the long-term accuracy of the watch, which in turn increases service intervals. This is evidenced by the extended three-year warranty offered in the timepiece."

Vargas says unlike last year when they slashed their advertising spending, this year they are maintaining their expenses. He says the group subscribes to the proven concept that during hard times, you have to continue advertising to maintain share of mind.

Oliver Hugentobler, sales and marketing project manager of Omega, who is based in Switzerland and came to Manila, only for the launch, says worldwide they are not so "concerned about the recession."

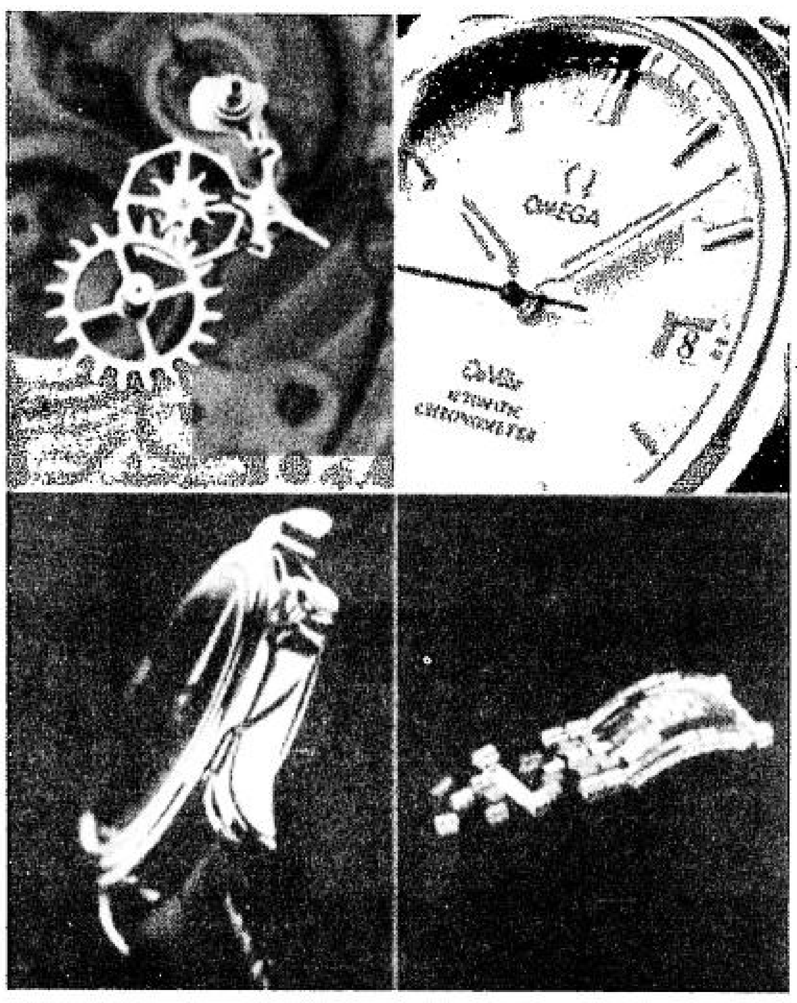
But he says one or two markets have been affected. Asia is still experiencing growth.

Omega's main marketing strategy has been through testimonials of world celebrities. Hugentobler says getting Cindy Crawford as an endorser really boosted Omega sales.

The other Omega endorsers include actor Pierce Brosnan, World Formula 1 champion Michael Schumacher, and tennis star Anna Kournikova.

But Hugentobler says for the De Ville line, they are not going to get anyone to endorse it. "We will let the products speak for itself. It is not necessary to link it with anyone."

Omega is part of the renowned Swatch Group, one of the world's leading watchmakers, headquartered in Bienne, Switzerland.



THE DE VILLE collection's innovation is the escapement, which is a double co-axial escape wheel and a new lever design with three ruby pallet-stones. Plus the metal bracelet intricately manufactured of small interlinked sections, with satin-finished central links and contrasting polished edges.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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Cement firm turns Cebu white

(From page B3)

Fucoy, vice president for human resources Pinky Ruiz, director for corporate communications Juris Soliman and human resources administrator Danny Antonio.

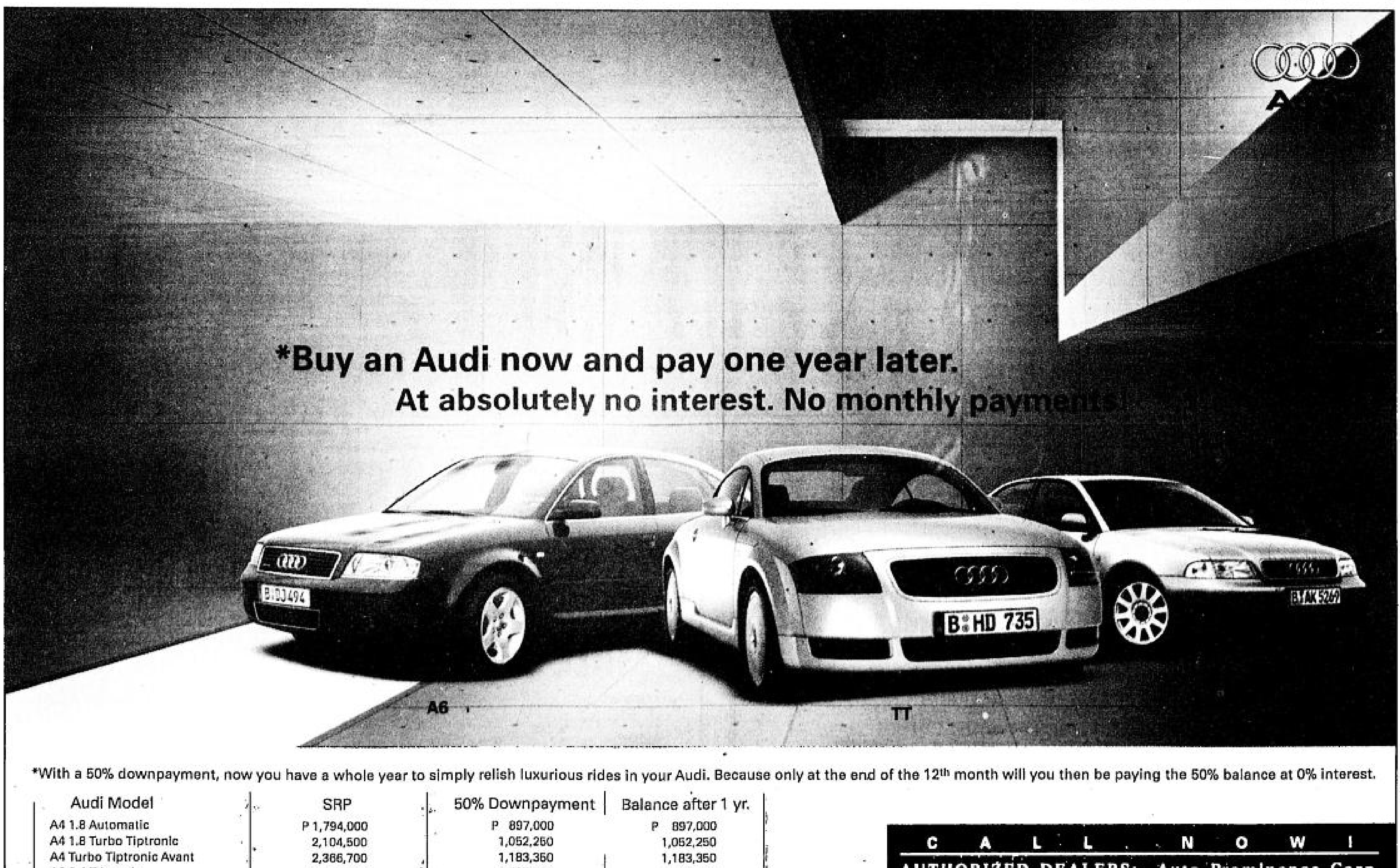
Cemex White Cement is True Portland Type I Cement with 45.6 Mpa (mega pascals—the measure of the amount of pressure an object can take) strength and less than 0.30 alkali content.

Cemex White Cement's toughness, plus its color, makes for a more multi-purpose building material. It can be used for both structural and non-structural purposes.

In other words, it can be used for actual construction as well as for more aesthetic purposes.

This makes Cemex White Cement more cost efficient than other cement types.

It can be used to make exterior walls, for structural functions; swimming pools; tile grout; pebble wash; roofing; garden ornaments; benches; and road barriers.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At absolutely no interest. No monthly payments!
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A6
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*With a 50% downpayment, now you have a whole year to simply relish luxurious rides in your Audi. Because only at the end of the 12th month will you then be paying the 50% balance at 0% interest.

Audi Model	SRP	50% Downpayment	Balance after 1 yr.
A4 1.8 Automatic	P 1,794,000	P 897,000	P 897,000
A4 1.8 Turbo Tiptronic	2,104,500	1,052,250	1,052,250
A4 Turbo Tiptronic Avant	2,366,700	1,183,350	1,183,350
A6 2.4 Triptonic	3,075,000	1,537,500	1,537,500
A6 2.4 Tiptronic Quattro	3,438,500	1,719,250	1,719,250
TT Coupe 1.8 180bhp	3,105,000	1,552,500	1,552,500
TT Coupe Quattro 1.8 225 bhp	3,427,000	1,713,500	1,713,500

*Subject to approval of participating banks (UnionBank, Insular Savings Bank and Asiatrust). **Promo extended until to January 28, 2002.

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Strengthening the Foundations of Lasting Peace and Development in Southern Philippines

General Provisions

The Government of the Philippines-United Nations Multi-Donor Programme (GOP-UN/MDP3) a peace and development programme in Southern Philippines is in search of qualified individuals for the following posts in Mindanao to further strengthen the foundations of lasting peace and development through provision of basic services & livelihood, capacity development and confidence building at all levels of government - community, regional, and national.

In partnership with national and local governments and other key stakeholders the program is jointly implementing projects in eight (8) components, namely: (1) capacity building and empowerment through Peace and Development Communities (PDC), (2) building partnerships and strengthening institutional support mechanisms, (3) special emergency response and relief, (4) improved access to basic services, (5) community enterprise and entrepreneurship development in non-farm sectors, (6) sustainable livelihood (agriculture, forestry and fishery) development , (7) culture of peace and advocacy, and (8) programme management and coordination.

PROJECT COMPONENT on EMPOWERMENT of PDCs

1. PARTICIPATORY DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST
(based in Cotabato, and reporting directly to the PC)

Role: S/he shall assist the Area Coordinators in developing the framework and guidelines for the formulation and implementation of Community Action Plans through (a) initiating participatory planning activities; (b) networking with the target communities in planning, mobilizing internal and external resources in partnership with LGUs; (c) coordinating the setting up of new PDCs as target communities; (d) assisting in the organization of PDTFs, BDCs, people's organizations and coops in the PDCs; (e) preparing progress reports; and performing other tasks assigned by the PC).

Qualifications: Advance studies in Public Administration/Development Management/Economics/Rural Development; experiences in Southern Philippines in the areas of community organizing, participatory governance, PIME.

2. COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION SPECIALIST
(based in Cotabato City and directly reporting to the Component Manager/Participatory Development Specialist)

Role: S/he shall be in charge of the development of the framework and guidelines in the formulation and implementation of Community Action Plans and provide technical assistance to the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) and Area Coordination Teams (ACTs) through recommending the (a) criteria and methodology in identifying and organizing PDCs, (b) terms of reference for the sub-contracts on capacity needs assessment, training module and community baseline/profiling, and (c) framework and guidelines in the conduct of the capacity needs assessment of the PDAs; (d) preparing progress reports; and (e) performing other tasks assigned by the Component Manager/Participatory Development Specialist.

Qualifications: Advance studies in Management/ Public Administration/ Development Management/ Rural Economics; equipped with facilitation and coordination skills; experience in capacity building, governance and management, preferably in Southern Philippines.

3. AREA TECHNICAL ASSISTANT
(based in Cotabato City, General Santos City and Zamboanga City and reportong directly to the Area Coordinator)

Role: S/he shall assist in (a) extending inter-component coordination; (b) data generation and profiling; (c) building partnerships with LCEs, NGOs, and others in support of the implementation of the various components; (d) identifying potential projects and available technical expertise in the target communities; and (e) performing other tasks assigned by the Area Coordinator.

Qualifications: Masteral / Masteral units / Bachelor's degree in Management / Public Administration / Development Management/ Economics/Rural Development; at least 10 years experience in Southern Philippines/Mindanao on the following: management and supervision of projects, networking with LGUs, NGOs and other partners at the community; very satisfactory level of facilitation and coordination skills, capacity building, governance, project conceptualization, proposal-making and financial analyses.

PROJECT COMPONENT on PARTNERSHIP BUILDING

4. INSTITUTIONAL BUILDING SPECIALIST
(based in Cotabato City, and under the direct supervision and reporting directly to the PC)

Role: S/he shall lead the formulation of a unified institutional framework and set of strategies in programme / project implementation through (a) developing the Terms of Reference for the trainings in management and governance, capacity building for MIS and computerization of operations; (b) ensuring implementation of capacity building plans for the SPCPD and the ARMM; (c) developing the design for round table discussions / workshops among donors and local agencies on best practices and lessons learned in the areas of PIME for peace and development; (d) developing the guidelines in the review / assessment / revision of development plans to incorporate peace building objectives, targets, strategies, programs and projects; and (e) performing other tasks assigned by the PC.

Qualifications: Masteral / Masteral units / Bachelor's degree in Management / Public Administration / Development Management / Economics / Rural Development; equipped with knowledge and skills on: capacity building for individuals and institutions, governance and management, conflict management, consensus building, PIME, strategy setting, policy formulation and analysis, integrated area development, facilitation skills, financial analysis.

PROJECT COMPONENT on COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT

5. MICROFINANCE SPECIALIST
(based in a Cotabato City, and reporting directly to the Component Manager)

Role: S/he shall (a) establish system and guidelines in the creation, maintenance and operation of Endowment (trust) Fund at the project level and Start-Up Capital Funds at the beneficiary level, and responsible for the computerized monitoring of the Start-Up Capital scheme; (b) maintain financial records, prepare and submit reports and ensure smooth and transparent operation of both funds; and (c) perform other tasks assigned from time to time.

Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in Accounting / Banking and Finance / Business Management or Business Administration; experience in community work and development coordination; knowledge of Islamic culture, especially finance; with at least two (2 years experience in banks or rural finance institution; computer-literate.

6. SPECIALIST FOR COMMUNITY ORGANIZING
(based in Cotabato City, and reporting directly to the Component Manager)

Role: S/he shall (a) plan, conduct and monitor organizing, capability-building and training of beneficiaries engaged in community-level enterprises; (b) orchestrate and supervise field coordinators, project proposal reviews, assessment and recommendation for approval; (c) provide post-training and other related assistance to ensure successful implementation of community enterprise systems in target communities; (d) implement Vocational Preparation and Enterprise Literacy (VPEL); (e) be responsible for computerized monitoring of self-employed/employed beneficiaries; (f) create community enterprise sub-components; and (g) performing other tasks assigned by the Component Manager.

Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in the Social Sciences (Master's degree would be an advantage); at least five (5) years of supervisory experience in handling people and projects; with extensive experience in community development work; experience in programme coordination, monitoring and evaluation; experience in emergency programmes and post-conflict situations.

7. SPECIALIST FOR SKILLS TRAINING
(based in a Cotabato City, and reporting directly to the Component Manager)

Role: S/he shall (a) coordinate and implement community-/institution-based and bayanihan training schemes; (b) maintain informal groups of field training coordinators and attend to their capability building needs; (c) perform other tasks to ensure more productive partners and stakeholders; (d) monitor all skills training related activities; and (e) perform other tasks assigned by the Component Manager.

Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in industrial education, agriculture or social sciences; experience in community organizing and development coordination; at least two (2) years experience in community-based training and enterprise development; knowledge of Islamic culture; computer literate.

PROJECT COMPONENT on SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD

8. AGRONOMIST/HORTICULTURIST
(based in Cotabato, and under the supervision of the Component Manager)

Role: S/he shall assist in the promotion of crop-based farming systems to cover lowland and upland in target communities and identifies, develops and monitors all activities attendant to promotion of crop-based projects including capacity building for beneficiaries and extension workers of LGUs through (a) formulating and implementing practical crop-based farming systems considering availability of labor, markets and other farm inputs; (b) identifying and selecting suitable areas for lowland and upland crop production; (c) formulating a training program on crop production for seed production, simple farm technology and post-harvest techniques; (d) serving as resource person in the improvement of agricultural extension activities among LGU participants; (e) assessing the required inputs for the different modules and preparing a budget plan per module; (f) preparing periodic progress reports and monitoring the implementation of crop-based modules in consultation with Component Manager; and (g) perform other tasks assigned by the Component Manager.

Qualifications: Advance degree in agronomy; at least 7 years practical experience in the implementation of various crop production modules; good knowledge of crop-based farming systems.

9. FISHERY SPECIALIST
(based in Cotabato City, and under the direct supervision of the Component Manager-6)

Role: S/he shall assist in the promotion of fishery projects to cover inland, marine, brackish water in target communities and identify, develop and monitor all activities related to the promotion of fishery projects, including capacity building for beneficiaries and extension workers of the LGUs through (a) formulating and implementing practical fish cage culture, including seaweed farming especially for women considering availability of labor, market and other farm inputs and introducing production of fingerlings that could be replicated and immediately sourced for growing and fattening; (b) formulating a training program on marine and brackish and inland water fish production to focus on simple fingerling production, fattening and simple post-harvest production techniques; (c) preparing progress report; (d) and performing other tasks assigned by the Component Manager.

Qualifications: Advance degree in marine science and/or fishery technology or aquaculture; at least 7 years practical experience in the implementation of various fish cage modules; good knowledge of fishery production.

10. LIVESTOCK SPECIALIST
(based in Cotabato City, and under the direct supervision of the Component Manager-6)

Role: S/he shall assist in the promotion of livestock/poultry projects in the target communities and identifies, develops and monitors all activities attendant to the promotion of livestock/poultry projects, including capacity building for beneficiaries and extension workers of the LGUs through (a) selecting project beneficiaries and formulating and implementing practicable livestock/poultry modules, especially for women, considering constraints and limitations as regards breed, feeds, diseases and time availability of the beneficiaries, including integration with crop production; (b) formulating a training program on livestock production with the view to establish demo farm cum-establishment of breeder or stock farm for small ruminants; (c) assessing the required inputs for different modules and prepare budget plan for each; (d) preparing progress reports; and (e) performing other tasks assigned by the Component Manager.

Qualifications: Advance degree in agronomy; at least 7 years practical experience in the implementation of various crop production modules; good knowledge of crop-based farming systems.

11. AGRO-FORESTRY SPECIALIST
(based in Cotabato City, and under the direct supervision of the Component Manager-6)

Role: S/he shall assist in the promotion of livelihood opportunities in the upland and hilly areas of target communities, and work closely with partner agencies and LGUs to draw support and coordination with other on-going related projects through (a) selecting project beneficiaries and specific location and formulation of detailed work plan; (b) formulating and implementing applicable and sustainable farming opportunities in the upland using environment-friendly technologies such as sloping agriculture, inter cropping, etc.; (c) developing a demo farm for the application of hillside farming and nursery to serve as sources of planting materials; (d) preparing a training program on sustainable upland farming; (e) monitoring/preparing periodic progress report; and (f) performing other tasks assigned by Component Manager.

Qualifications: Advance degree in Forestry and/or Agronomy/Soils specializing in upland or dry land agriculture for at least 7 years; familiar with smallholder upland and permanent tree crop production; fit to do field work in hilly terrain.

12. AGRI-BUSINESS AND MARKETING SPECIALIST
(based in Cotabato City, and under the supervision of the Component Manager-6)

Role: S/he shall assist in the establishment and/or developing market access of farm products produced by the beneficiaries of target communities through (a) assessing potential markets of farm products being produced in the target communities; (b) conducting resource matching for possible marketing tie-up between beneficiaries and potential agri-business firms; (c) preparing a training program for selected members of primary organizations and/or agricultural cooperatives on entrepreneurial management, accounting / bookkeeping and other subjects; (d) monitoring/preparing progress reports; and (e) performing other tasks assigned by the Component Manager.

Qualifications: Advance degree in Agri-business management; at least 7 years professional work experience in the development of markets and agri-business management in general; ability to do a lot of field travel.

PROJECT COMPONENT on CULTURE OF PEACE AND ADVOCACY

13. CULTURE OF PEACE AND ADVOCACY SPECIALIST
(based in Cotabato City and reporting directly to the Programme Coordinator (PC), with technical supervision from the UNDP focal point and coordinating closely with the Area Coordination Teams (ACTs) and other Components)

Role: S/he shall (a) design the over-all programme framework for peace and advocacy activities based on set objectives; (b) develop guidelines for the conduct of the Annual Mindanao Peace Awards; (c) perform linkaging and networking activities with other peace advocacy groups, government and other organizations; (d) prepare progress reports; and (e) performing other tasks assigned by the PC.

Qualifications: Advance studies on Development Communications and Management / Rural Social Development; experiences on policy formulation, analysis and advocacy, handling and managing campaigns, peace education and public information; proficient in oral and written communications; computer literate.

PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION

14. SENIOR FINANCE OFFICER
(based in Cotabato City and reporting directly to the PC)

Role: S/he shall (a) enhance accounting system and supervise maintenance of books of accounts and ledgers; (b) prepare disbursement vouchers; (c) establish payroll; (d) conduct financial monitoring among ACTs and project components; (e) review and consolidate ACT budget requests and expenditure reports; (f) prepare consolidated annual budget requests and financial status reports; (e) facilitates conduct of financial and management audit; (f) supervise all other financial staff; and (g) perform other tasks assigned by the Component Manager.

Qualifications: Certified Public Accountant with at least 5 years experience involving financial management /supervision.

15. PROGRAMME TECHNICAL ASSISTANT
(based in Cotabato City and reporting directly to the PC)

Role: S/he shall provide technical support to the programme through assisting in (a) consolidating the programme's overall plans; (b) drafting communications related to programme policies, guidelines and direction; (c) facilitating services to programme-wide activities like meetings, conferences and workshops; (d) conducting liaison work with programme partners; (e) reviewing programme-related proposals for decision-making and coordinating with the Administrative and Finance Units; (f) facilitating coordination and complementation of programme components' activities and other designated tasks related to implementation and coordination; (g) undertaking periodic monitoring and assessment activities by working closely with the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and Management Information System (MIS) Specialists; (h) preparation of the consolidated programme accomplishment reports and the packaging of the same for presentation purposes; (i) preparing the Executive Committee and Programme Advisory Group agenda papers; and (j) performing other tasks assigned by the PC.

Qualifications: Bachelor's degree / Masteral units in social development or development management; at least five (5) years experience in rural social development work, preferably with exposure with international development agencies and Mindanao programmes/projects; familiar with project Programme Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation (PIME); proficient in oral and written communication in both English and Filipino; computer literate.

16. COMPONENT ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE ASSISTANT
(based in either Cotabato or Davao City under the overall guidance of the Senior Finance Officer and reporting directly to respective Component Managers)

Role: S/he shall assist the Component Manager in (a) managing the day-to-day operations of the office including personnel and logistics management systems; (b) maintaining orderly and systematic files of administrative/financial records; (c) mounting and coordinating programme workshops/ conferences/ activities/ missions including travel arrangements and provision of supplies and materials; (d) monitoring and ensuring the proper maintenance of office premises, equipment, furniture and vehicles; (e) administering the petty cash fund and payroll; (f) liaising with appropriate representatives of other partner agencies, as may be required, in facilitating smooth administrative arrangements for programme implementation; and (g) performing other tasks assigned from time to time.

Qualifications: Bachelors degree major in accountancy; at least 5 years of related experience; proficient in oral and written communication in both English and Filipino.

17. DRIVER/MECHANIC
(based in Cotabato City, and under the overall supervision of the Administrative & Procurement Officer)

Role: He shall (a) extend transport services; (b) maintain and secure safety of vehicles including monitoring regular vehicle repair/ maintenance jobs; (c) deliver/pick-up project documents/materials and extend support services during official functions like meetings, workshops, etc.; and (d) perform other tasks to be assigned by NPD, PC, CMs and ACs.

Qualifications: Holder of professional driver's license; has at least 10 years of driving experience; familiar with the road routes in Southern Philippines.

***Preferably all applicants should come from Mindanao, are familiar with the culture, history and current situation in Southern Philippines, and able to converse and write in any of the local dialects (especially Visayan)** . All application letters and comprehensive resume should reach our office on or before 2 January 2002. Address applications to Development Support Services Center, United Nations Development Programme, 7th Floor NEDA sa Makati Building, 106 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City (via courier) or P.O. Box 7285 Domestic Airport Post Office Lock Box, 1300 Domestic Road, Pasay City (via airmail); Fax Nos. (632) 816-4061/893-9598; Email Address: bc_admin.ph@undp.org.*

Only shortlisted applicants will be acknowledged.

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ATTENTION CGFNS NURSES!

Work in any part of the U.S. Carolina Nursing Agency (Life Care Centers of America) wants to meet you at Sulu Hotel (Manila) on December 16, 2001, 8:00 a.m. or Garwood Park (Cebu), on December 14, 2001, 8:00 a.m. or Apo View Hotel (Davao City) on December 18, 2001, 8:00 a.m.

For inquiries call Cell. No. **0917-2765604** - Sonny.

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INTERESTED APPLICANTS must come in person and submit complete RESUMÉ/BIODATA; employment certification; passport copy; 2x2 pictures (color and black & white); diploma, license; transcript of records, to Ms. Rochelle.

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PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

Coordinates and negotiates for production of cooling Fan in Sanyo Denki Japan.

Qualifications:
- At least 24 years old, female
- Has 4 years experience in the production of cooling fan
- Can read, write and speak fluent Nihongo

Interested applicants may send their resumé with 2x2 recent photo and credentials to:

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Subic Bay Freeport Zone

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ciriaco@pacific.com.ph

OFFICE ADDRESS: 387-389 BONI AVE. MANDALUYONG CITY,
METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) is inviting applicants who can qualify for the following National UN Volunteer (NUNV) Posts for the Third Phase of the Government of the Philippines/Multi-Donor Programme (MDP3) in Southern Philippines.

NUNV Public Sector Specialist (1)

Role: S/he shall (a) assist the Component Manager during inter-agency meetings and workshops aimed at formulating a common framework for institutional building and strengthening; (b) recommend guidelines in the mainstreaming of lessons learned and best practices into the Local Government Units/National Government Agencies (LGU/NGA) programmes and projects; (c) assist in the conduct of trainings for governance and management; (d) prepare progress reports; and (e) perform other tasks assigned by the Component Manager.

Qualifications: Masteral / Masteral units / Bachelor's degree in Management / Public Administration / Development Management / Economics / Rural Development; equipped with knowledge and skills on: capacity building for individuals and institutions, governance and management, conflict management, consensus building, PIME, strategy setting, policy formulation and analysis, integrated area development, facilitation skills, financial analysis.

NUNV LGU Management Facilitator (1)

Role: S/he shall (a) assist the Component Manager during inter-agency meetings and workshops aimed at formulating a common framework for institutional building and strengthening; (b) evaluate submitted proposed designs for trainings on management and governance; (c) assist in the conduct of roundtable discussions of best lessons/practices on PIME for peace and development; (d) prepare progress reports; and (e) perform other tasks assigned by the Component Manager.

Qualifications: Bachelors degree; experiences in Southern Philippines on: capacity building for individuals and institutions, community organizing, participatory governance, PIME.

NUNV Communication Specialist (1)

Role: S/he shall (a) organize PDCs for community radio programmes and training; (b) develop Terms of Reference for the conduct of documentation of successful transformative experiences which should include advocacy/publication/circulation approaches; (c) initiate conduct of media dialogues on peace issues and undertake media tours and information caravan; (d) conduct seminars on positive reportage; (d) prepare progress reports; and (e) perform other tasks assigned by the Component Manager.

Qualifications: Bachelors Degree in Communications Management/Mass Communications; experiences in peace education, info and mass media campaign, publication of communications output; equipped with facilitation skills.

NUNV Education Specialist

Role: S/he shall (a) develop Terms of Reference and recommend module for literacy training; (b) assist in the conduct of the literacy facilitators' training; (c) recommend guidelines for integration of peace education in community-based literacy and continuing education for men and women; (d) develop terms of reference for special education modules for law enforcement agents; (e) prepare progress reports; and (f) perform other tasks assigned by the Component Manager.

Qualifications: Bachelors degree; Experiences in peace education, community organizing, proposal making; equipped with facilitation skills.

NUNV Reproductive Health Specialist (4)

Role: S/he shall (a) serve as the link between the Mindanao Health and Development Office (MHDO in Davao City, and peace and development communities (PDCs) in the implementation of RH activities; (b) conduct community organizing and mobilization of women, men and adolescents in the PDCs for RH activities; (c) facilitate the RH training of regional, provincial and municipal health personnel attending the PDCs; (d) document all RH and common MDP3-related activities in the PDCs; (e) prepare monthly reports; and (f) perform other duties that may be required by the Component Manager and the MDP3.

Qualifications: Bachelor's Degree in Health or other health-related or social-science related disciplines; at least two years of health-related experience preferably in reproductive health with strong background in community organizing.

Preferably all applicants should come from Mindanao, are familiar with the culture, history and current situation in Southern Philippines, and able to converse and write in any of the local dialects (especially Visayan). *All application letters and comprehensive resume should reach our office on or before 2 January 2002. Address applications to the United Nations Volunteers, United Nations Development Programme, 7th Floor NEDA sa Makati Building, 106 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City (via courier) or P.O. Box 7285 Domestic Airport Post Office Lock Box, 1300 Domestic Road, Pasay City (via airmail); Fax Nos. (632) 816-4061/893-9598; Email Address: ruby.banez@undp.org*

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PROPERTY DISPOSAL SALE

SEALED BID SALE of used Government vehicles, warehouse building, computer equipment and miscellaneous scrap materials.

INSPECTION OF PROPERTY: December 12-13, 2001; 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM and 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM at IBB/PTS (formerly Voice of America), Tinang, Concepcion, Tarlac. Submission of bids and 20% bond in cash or Manager's Check will be on December 14, 2001 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon.

Tel. Nos.: (045) 982-0254 or 0255
POC: Belle Concepcion or Joel Diamzon

(PDI – Dec. 8 & 9, 2001)

Sol A. Jabilio & Associates, from Vancouver, Canada will hold a **Pre-Assessment Seminar for Canadian Immigration** on December 22, 2001 and January 3, 2002 at the Hyatt Regency Manila, 2702 Roxas Blvd. PC. Sessions will be at 9:00 am; 11:00 AM; 1:00 PM; and 3:00 PM. The fee is P1,000.00 payable at the entrance; non-refundable. For questions please contact Tel. No. 888-0470.

Independent applicants, visitors, entrepreneurs, self-employed and working visa applicants are invited.

Topics to be discussed are the following:
1) Successful writing of application for Canadian Immigration
2) Advising on career interest for intended job in Canada; Canadian lifestyle and how to be successful in Canada.

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Global Recruiters, LLC, based in the United States, places Nurses in the Health Care Industry in the USA.

If you are a registered nurse with at least 1 year of experience and have passed or will take the CGFNS exam, please submit the following: 3 sets of your resumé and job description, diploma, transcript of record/ RLE, board certificate/rating, PRC license, good moral character & employment certificate with references and 3 pcs. pictures.

Preference will be given to candidates with CGFNS and TOEFL. Those w/o CGFNS will be accommodated. FINANCIAL SUPPORT available for qualified and accepted candidates for the required exams, i.e., TOEFL, TSE, CGFNS, NCLEX, etc.

For consultation & scheduling of candidates, please visit us at our office beginning December 10, 2001. For more information please contact us by phone or email (c/o Brenda).

PROVINCIAL APPLICANTS may send their complete documents to the following address:

Suite 354 Wellington Building
Plaza Lorenzo de Ruiz
Binondo, Manila

Tel. 241-0781/241-0693 Email: GlobalRec@aol.com
562-3959/563-6828 bren0308@netgazer.com.ph

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
Community-Based Resource Management Project
CBRMP

The Community-Based Resource Management Project (CBRMP) of the Department of Finance is inviting interested applicants for 4 vacant positions of:

ACCOUNT ANALYST

(1 each for Regions 5, 7, 8 & 13)

Qualifications:
1. Must hold a Bachelor's degree in Accountancy or related courses
2. Has good working knowledge on government accounting (preferably with at least two years experience)
3. With sufficient background in Foreign- Assisted Projects
4. Must be computer literate
5. Has good communication skills, both oral and written
6. Must be physically fit and of good moral character
7. Able to work well with LGUs and willing to travel to municipalities within the region of assignment

Interested applicants may fax or send by fastest mail/courier their letter of application, resume, transcript of records, and 2x2 photo on or before December 14, 2001 to the CBRMP regional office they wish to work with:

Region 5
Regional Coordinator
CBRMP Project
ANST Building Washington Drive
Legaspi City
Tel. Fax # (053) 481-09-27

Region 7
Regional Coordinator
5/Floor BF Building N. Escario Street,
Cebu City
Tel. Fax # (032) 255-77-49

Region 8
Regional Coordinator
Timo Romano Real Street
Sagkahan District
Tacloban City
Tel. Fax # (053) 523-42-54

Region 13
Regional Coordinator
3/F Aguilar Building,
Pili Drive Butuan City
Tel. Fax # (085) 815-03-20

WANTED

1) Programmer

- Experienced in WAP, WML, CHTML
- Good in speech/presentation of project
- Male or female
- 25-40 years old

* We offer high salary for successful candidate

2) Accounting clerk

- Female
- 20-28 years old

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Fax : (63-2) 633-8376
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Contact person : Ken Kawamura

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INVITATION TO INTERESTED CONTRACTORS

The U.S. Embassy, Manila has a requirement for the replacement of double-pane glazing in exterior windows and patio doors with 81 custom-fabricated, factory-produced, laminated-tempered insulated glazing units at one of its official residences.

Target Date of Release of Solicitation: 12/10/01
Target Date of Submission of Offers: 02/28/02

At a minimum, each firm must meet the following requirements:

(a) Be able to understand written and spoken English;
(b) Have an established business with a permanent address and telephone listing;
(c) Have the necessary personnel, equipment, and financial resources to perform the work which includes supply of replacement, glazing units and installation;
(d) Have the ability to obtain a performance/guarantee bond and a payment bond, or to post adequate performance security, such as irrevocable letters of credit or guarantees issued by a reputable financial institution;
(e) Have no adverse criminal record;
(f) Have no political or business affiliation which could be considered contrary to the interests of the United States.

Interested contractors capable of providing these services are invited to submit a letter of intent to participate in the solicitation to the Contracting Officer, American Embassy, Manila, through fax # 833-8203. If you wish to hand carry your letter, fax the following information at least one (1) day in advance for prior approval: Name of company; name of representative; date and time of arrival; make, model, color and plate number of vehicle (if any). No telephone request will be considered. The Contracting Office is located at the General Services Office (GSO) Building, Seafront Compound, Pasay City. Contact persons are Rhoda E. Songcuan and Noel Arturo G. Ocampo who can be reached at 523-1001 loc. 2787 or 2747.

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
Pambansang Korporasyon Sa Elektrisidad
(NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION)

December 4, 2001

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Power Corporation, TRANSCO-South Luzon invites interested licensed and/or accredited suppliers/contractors in the pre-qualification and bidding for the supply of labor including furnishing of materials, tools, equipment and supervision, and other incidentals necessary to complete the Replacement of 36 kms. Corroded OHGW of District II's 230 kV Transmission Lines along Biñan-Sucat and Biñan-Calaca T/L.

This invitation is open to duly registered contractors with the following classification:

PCAB License - **D & C, Specialties**
IAC/CIAP Registration - **Small B, Electrical Works**

Pre-qualification documents are available for issuance to prospective bidders starting **December 10, 2001** up to **January 2, 2002 at Contracts Management Office, TRANSCO-Southern Luzon Region, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Six Hundred Pesos (Php 600.00) only. Schedule of availability of Bid Documents and Bid Opening Date shall be notified to Prequalified Bidders at a later date.

NPC reserves the right to reject any application for eligibility or bid without offering any reason/s, to waive any formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

Additional information relative hereto shall be furnished upon official request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned, c/o Contracts Management Office, TRANSCO-SL, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, Tel/Fax No. 520-8213.

(Sgd.) **RENE D. RAMAS**
Manager, Administration, TRANSCO-SL
and Chairman,
Regional Contracts Award Committee

(PDI - Dec 9. 2001)

sbma **SBMA DISPOSAL COMMITTEE**
SBMA Building 255, Berryman Street, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines
(6347) 252-4214/4124; Fax (6347) 252-4204

INVITATION TO BID
FOR THE SALE OF ASSORTED DISPOSABLE/SURPLUS AND OTHER SCRAP MATERIALS
"AS IS, WHERE IS"

ITEM DESCRIPTION/LOCATION	SCHEDULE OF BIDDING
Lot 1) Assorted Scrap Material from Subic Water	December 20, 2001, 2:00 PM
Lot 2) Assorted Scrap Material at Building 148 Yard	December 20, 2001, 2:00 PM
Lot 3) Assorted Unserviceable Furniture and Appliances at Building 1434 and 222	December 20, 2001, 2:00 PM
Lot 4) Assorted Restaurant Equipment at the Old McDonald Building	December 20, 2001, 2:00 PM

I. Buyers are requested to submit the following Pre-qualification documents at the Procurement and Property Management Department (PPMD), Room 201, Second Floor, Building 255, SBMA, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

1. Certificate of Accreditation as Scrap Hauler from Trade & Tourism Group or PPMD, SBMA.
2. Latest Income Tax Return (ITR 2000) of the bidder or copies of Audited Financial Statement of the Company and Certification of Cash Deposit by a reputable bank.

II. Deadline for submission of the Pre-qualification Papers is on December 13, 2001, Thursday (5:00 PM). No extension.

III. Pre-Bid Conference and Issuance Bid Forms (P100.00 per set) will be on December 17, 2001, Thursday (3:00 PM).

IV. Bid Bond is required in the form of cash or manager's check equivalent to ten (10%) percent of the total bid price in favor of SBMA.

V. Inspection will strictly be by Group on the following schedules:

Lot 1 and 2) December 13, 2001 - 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Lot 3 and 4) December 14, 2001 - 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

VI. For other information, inquiries and/or request for inspection, call Tel. No. (047) 252-4214/4283 (c/o Danny Sanchez).

VII. SBMA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality found therein or to reject/accept such bids as may be deemed most advantageous to SBMA.

Done this 6th Day of December 2001.

(Sgd.) **CAPT. VICTOR L. MAMON**
SDA for Operations
Chairman - Disposal Committee

(PDI – Dec. 7, 8 & 9, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF BENGUET
La Trinidad
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

INVITATION TO BID

The Province of Benguet, thru its PBAC, shall accept sealed bids not later than 2:00 PM on January 03, 2002 at the Office of the Provincial Governor, Conference Room, from contractors who were qualified by the Provincial PBAC and classified as "medium" by the Inter-agency Committee and who have SUBMITTED THEIR RENEWAL OF LICENSE FOR THE CURRENT YEAR AND OTHER RELATED DOCUMENTS DULY VALIDATED BY THE PROVINCIAL PBAC for the prosecution of the following infrastructure projects:

PROJECT TITLE:

1. Rehabilitation of Bokig — Betac Farm to Market Road at Pasdong, Atok, Benguet, AAE P7,638,542.38
2. Rehabilitation of junction Amgaleygey — Saclalan Farm to Market Road at Amgaleygey, Buguias, Benguet. AAE P5,606,336.41
3. Rehabilitation of Mongio — Bayabas Farm to Market Road at Bayabas, Sablan, Benguet AAE P9,413,497.63

Cost of Bid forms/project: P500

Bidder's compliance with filing schedule is enjoined:

1. Filing of letter of intent with PBAC Secretariat .... December 17-19, 2001
2. Issuance of bid forms, plans and specs .... December 17-20, 2001
3. Pre-bid conference .... December 20, 2001
4. Submission of bids at Provincial Governor's Office .... January 3, 2002 (8:00AM-2:00PM)
5. Opening of Bids .... January 3, 2002 (2:00 PM)

Only the licensee with approved letter of intent by the PBAC chairman will be issued bid forms and shall personally sign the registry at the registry at the time of filing. SPAs will not be honored.

The Provincial Government of Benguet, thru its PBAC, reserves the right to reject any or all of the bids, waive any defects contained therein and to award the contract to the contractor whose bid/s, as evaluated, is most advantageous to the government.

Publications: November 25, 2001, December 2 & 9, 2001

(Sgd.) **RAUL M. MOLINTAS**
Provincial Governor &
PBAC Chairman

(PDI – Nov. 25, Dec. 2 & 9, 2001)

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sbma **NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR STATEMENTS OF PRE-QUALIFICATION**
REAL ESTATE DEVELOPERS

The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) invites real estate developers, investors, resort firms, investment bankers, and other knowledgeable and well-capitalized property interests to submit offers to help develop sites within Subic Bay Freeport Zone. Several sites that are suitable for tourism are now being offered under the SBMA's Pro-active Land Marketing Program.

The following properties will be offered under a long-term lease and development to qualified developer-proponents with the most advantageous proposals:

Property	*Project Site*	*Area (m²) approx.*
A. Ilanin II	Camayan Point Resort	17,000
B. Ilanin IV	Hidden Beach Resort	80,000
C. Ilanin V	Grande Island Tourism Recreation Site	450,000
D. Ilanin VII	Commercial Recreation attraction area	TBD

Pre-qualification Application and Information packets for each property will be available for issuance starting **December 10, 2001** at: (a) SBMA Planning and Development Office (PDO), Rm. 108, Bldg. 229, Waterfront Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, ☎ (047) 252-4097/4053 upon payment of Two Hundred Pesos (Php 200.00) which is non-refundable.

Last day of submission of duly accomplished Pre-qualification Application and other supporting documents is on **January 11, 2001, not later than 5:00 PM**.

SBMA is seeking qualified investors for these unique properties. Only the most environmentally-responsible should seek the rights to develop the "Ilanin" tourism properties.

SBMA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect therein and to accept real estate developers whose proposals is the most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. CHITO M. CRUZ**
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI – Dec. 9, 16 & 23, 2001)

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sbma ***Office of the Senior Deputy Administrator for Support Services***
Bldg. 229 SBMA Waterfront Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Phils. 2222
Telephone (6347)252-4885/4314 Facsimile (6347) 252-4780/4185 to 87

SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY
Building 222, Dewey Avenue
Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines

NOTIFICATION OF INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY

Date: December 6, 2001
Contract No. PH-P215

The Government of the Philippines through the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) has received an ODA Loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) under a Special Yen Loan Package in the amount of 16,450 Million Yen towards the cost of Subic Bay Port Development Project (the proposed Project), and intends to apply the proceeds of the loan to payments under the contract for the proposed Project.

SBMA intends to prequalify Contractors to bid under JBIC's procedures for International Competitive Bidding for the proposed Project which comprises:

(a) A New Container Terminal at Cubi Point (including a 2-berth container wharf and terminal, access roads, dredging, minor buildings, site utilities and navigation aids);
(b) Rehabilitation of Existing Piers and Wharves (including backup areas and dredging);
(c) Equipment Procurement and Installation (quay gantry cranes, pollution control vessel and speed boats).

Prequalification is open only to Japanese firms and voluntarily formed Japanese joint ventures meeting the specific requirements prescribed in the Invitation for Prequalification, a copy of which may be obtained from:

The Chairman
Bid and Award Committee
Attention: PMO-FAPO
Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority
Building 222, Dewey Avenue
Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines

Parties wishing to receive a copy of the Invitation for Prequalification are required to present their request in writing on their company's letterhead to the above address.

The Prequalification Documents will be available from **11th December 2001** for a fee of Pesos 5,000.00 (Five Thousand Pesos), and the duly completed application must be submitted before 17:00 hours on **31st January 2002**.

SBMA reserves the right to cancel the proposed Project at any time before award of a contract and shall not be liable in any way for any costs incurred by applicants in connection with the preparation and submission of prequalification documents for the proposed Project.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. CHITO M. CRUZ**
Chairman, PBAC
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Dec. 8, 9 & 10, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
East Avenue, Quezon City

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. EMA-MC-01369-A
28 November 2001

TO : All Regional Directors, Heads of District Offices and Other Employees Concerned
SUBJECT : COLLECTION OF COMPUTER FEES

STRADCOM, in its letter dated November 26, 2001 advised LTO of their desire to commence collection of computer fees by the start of the business day of December 3, 2001 in the thirty (30) LTO District Offices, Extension Offices and Licensing Centers in the National Capital Region.

In view of this advice, you are hereby directed to implement the collection of computer fees only for the following modules issued with Certificate of Acceptance of an IT Facility (CAIF):

Motor Vehicle Registration System (MVRS)

1. Renewal of Private Motor Vehicles
2. Renewal of For-Hire Motor Vehicles
3. Renewal with Change Color
4. Change Color
5. Renewal of Government Motor Vehicles
6. Renewal of Diplomatic Motor Vehicles
    - 6.1 Other Exempt Motor Vehicles
    - 6.2 Consular Corps Motor Vehicles
    - 6.3 Diplomatic Corps Motor Vehicles
    - 6.4 Chief of Mission Motor Vehicles

Driver Licensing System (DLS)

1. New Student Permit
2. Plain Duplicate SP
3. Renewal of Drivers License - Non Professional and Professional Driver's License
    - 3.1 Plain Renewal (valid and no changes)
    - 3.2 Plain with Revision of Records
4. Conversion of Foreign License (applicant not previously issued a Philippine Driver's License)
    - 4.1 Non-Professional
    - 4.2 Professional
5. Revision of Records
    - 5.1 Change in Address
    - 5.2 Change in Citizenship
    - 5.3 Change in Marital Status
    - 5.4 Change in Birthdate
    - 5.5 Change in Name
    - 5.6 Incorrect Name/Birthdate
6. Change Classification (Valid License Only)
    - 6.1 Non-Professional to Professional Driver's License
    - 6.2 Professional to Non-Professional Driver's License
7. Additional Restriction Code (for valid licenses only)
    - 7.1 Additional Restriction Code 1
    - 7.2 Additional Restriction Code 2
    - 7.3 Additional Restriction Code 3
    - 7.4 Additional Restriction Code 4
    - 7.5 Additional Restriction Code 5

Revenue Collection System (RCS)

1. Fees Payment (without collection of computer fees if paid in check and only on transactions acceptable to the MVRS and DLS Acceptance Committee)
2. OR Re-printing
3. OR Number Modification
4. OR Inventory
5. End of Day
6. Start of Day
7. Deposit of Collections

The collection of computer fees shall be as follows:

	Computer Fee	VAT	Total
1. Motor Vehicle Registration -	P120.00	P120.00	P132.00
2. Driver License Issuance -	P 48.00	4.80	52.80

In the treatment of transaction, single or multiple per receipt should be considered.

For compliance.

(Sgd.) **EDGARDO M. ABENINA**
B/General AFP (Ret.)
Assistant Secretary

APPROVED:

(Sgd.) **PANTALEON D. ALVAREZ**
Secretary

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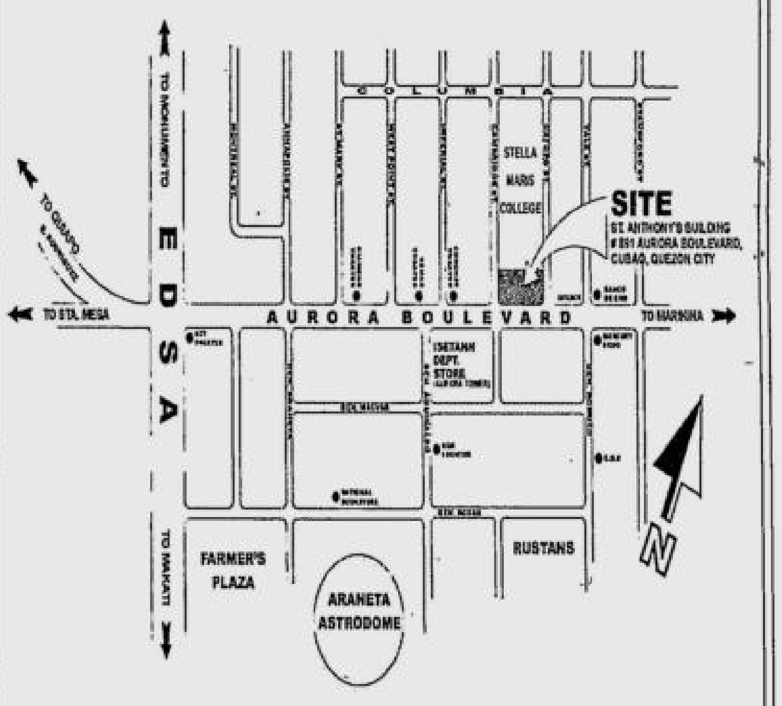

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Cebu
Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario Street, Cebu City
Tel. No. (032) 232-7618

Dumaguete City
Mr. Raymund Mercado
Hi-Top News Magazine & General Merchandise
Dr. V. Locsin Street, Dumaguete City
Tel. Nos. (035) 225-5796/225-4364
Mr. Ramon Charles Sy
New Renie's
Dr. V. Locsin Street, Dumaguete City
Tel. Nos. (035) 225-4320/422-7452
Fax No. (035) 255-1182

Iloilo
Mr. Eduardo Ty
c/o Ms. Marilou Ty
Eddie-Mar News & Magazine Center
Ground Floor, Bombo Radio Building
Mapa Street, Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 337-3120/337-6018
Mr. Jim Feliciano
309 Ledesma Street, Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 508-2530
Cell. No. (0917) 401-9180

Kalibo
Dra. Bease Candelario
Candelario Enterprise
RB Newspapers, Magazine & Song Hits Distribution Agency
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Fuentes Drive, Roxas City
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Tagbilaran City
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OMNI General Merchandise
Dr. 1 De Leon Building
Pabayo-Pacana Streets
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. Nos. (08822) 722-530
(088) 856-5253
Grandstar News & Magazines
122 Cruz Taal corner Pabayo Street
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. Nos. (088) 857-2571/857-1612
Telefax No. (088) 231-3248
E-mail: grandstar@hotmail.com

Cotabato
Marquez News & Magazine Agency
Marquez Building, 51 Sinsuat Avenue
Cotabato City
Tel. Nos. (064) 421-3264/421-8611/
(064) 229-7089 (Lotlot - Secretary)

Davao City
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Santos Building, Gov. Duterte Street
Davao City (fronting Galleria Hotel)
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221-3424/226-2931
Babasahin ATBP.
Lower Level, Gaisano Mall
Bajada, Davao City
Ground Floor, Victoria Plaza
Bajada, Davao City
Tel. Nos. (082) 221-3927/227-4410/300-2920

General Santos
Mr. Ramon Dimalanta
GSC Newscenter, Dimalanta Building
35 Pioneer Avenue, General Santos City
Tel. Nos. (083) 301-8731/301-6244

Pagadian City
Mr. Eduardo Villar Clavero
Edmar News - Advertising Agency
Bonifacio Street, Pagadian City
Tel. Nos (062) 215-1448/214-2641
Cell. No. (0919) 660-0001

Zamboanga
Mr. James Hao
Marlen's Variety Store
86-88 Sevilla Street, Zamboanga City
Tel. Nos (062) 991-4294/991-0973
Mr. Ruben Bautista
c/o Norie Bautista
Christian Vincent Newsstand
P. Brilantes Street corner Campaner Street
Zamboanga City
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☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6372008 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
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OBITUARIES

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Day before publication

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.
Matthew 10:39

MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family and relatives of the late

Ma. Paula Montenegro De Leon

who joined her Creator on November 24, 2001

sincerely convey our deepest gratitude and appeciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and condoled with us in our moment of grief.

PACITA REDONDO FERNANDEZ

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on December 6, 2001 at the age of 50.

Her beloved husband **Francis**; and children **Marianne, Marisol, Michael Angelo, Matthew,** and **Mark Francis** (†); mother **Ma. Paz Redondo**; sisters, in-laws, relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her mortal remains lie in state at 943 J. Bernal Street, Dalahican, Cavite City.

Requiem Mass will be held on December 15, 2001 at 2:00 p.m., at the St. Peter The Apostle Church, Cavite City.

Interment follows at Himlayang Caviteño.

"Eternal rest grant unto Pacita oh Lord"

The SPI, FOUNDATION (Cericos Family)

Husband, children, brother, sister and all her relatives, wishes to announce the passing in this world of

MARIA PERLA "PEARL" CERICOS

to join her Creator and be born to eternal life.

Our family wishes to thank all who touched her being on earth. We know that without all of you and her unconditional love, my wife, our mother would not have accomplished her spiritual preparation for the infinite union with GOD.

In Loving Memory

On the **First Death Anniversary**

CAPT. BARTOLOME "BART" C. LANDICHO PN (Ret.)

March 7, 1927 — December 9, 2000

His loving wife **Ceril**; children **Annabelle** and **Rommel Reyes, Luchi** and **Bernie Vicente, Burt** and **Luz Landicho**, and **Paolo**; grandchildren **John Michael** and **Jemimah Marianne Reyes, Christia** and **Chino Vicente, Glaizza, Geraldine, Patrick, Angel** and **Jason Landicho**; together with their family and friends request the pious readers to offer prayers for him.

Holy Masses will be offered for the eternal repose of his soul today, December 9, 2001 at the following Churches:

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, *Mangaldan, Pangasinan* .... 7:00 AM
Our Lady of Manaoag Church, *Manaoag, Pangasinan* .... 7:00 AM
San Fabian Parish Church, *San Fabian, Pangasinan* .... 7:00 AM
St. Therese Church, *Dagupan City* .... 8:00 AM

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MAKATI
892-5578
811-4361
811-4370

KALAW
528-0213
527-3342

MEGAMALL
635-0219
635-0220

VIRGINIA "JEAN" CHAN DUMO

of Meycauayan, Bulacan

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on December 5, 2001 at the age of 52.

Her bereaved husband **Oscar**; children **Odette Jane, Oscar Jason** and **Omarie Joan**; sister **Josie**; grandpa **Andronico**; grandma **Conching**; and other relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel B-9, La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will follow after 8:30 a.m. Mass and service on Tuesday, December 11, 2001.

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FOR VIGILS BEFORE BURIAL

ERRATUM

In the obituary of **Dr. Pacifico Castro, the interment will be on Tuesday, December 11, 2001 after the 9:00 AM Mass** instead of the 3:00 PM Mass as earlier announced.

ELPIDIO J. VALENTINO

of Malaya, Malanday, Marikina City

Peacefully joined his Creator on December 8, 2001 at the age of 91.

His loving children and children-in-law; former **Mayor Rudy & Menchit, Danilo & Herminia, Amor & Guillermo, Nelson & Emma, Romy & Maring, Dolora & Ikeng, Toto & Salvi, Liza & Zaldy, Tina & Abe, Aveling, Gracito & Lita,** nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at his residence # 83 Malaya Street, Malanday, Marikina City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, December 11, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park after the 1:00 p.m. Mass.

FLORA "Flor" E. MANTOLINO

November 24, 1934 — December 6, 2001

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord." 2 Corinthians 5:8

Her husband **Pepito**; children **Nick** and **Rosie, Nila** and **Mickey, Emma** and **Emol**; grandchildren **Joel** and **Annavi, Joy** and **Bobby, Joan, Krystle, Tin-Tin, Mico, Kristian**; great grandchildren **Julianne, Yñigo** request the pious readers to say a little prayer for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapel, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on December 12, 2001 at Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, M.M. after the 8:00 a.m. Mass. For further details, please contact Tel. No. 655-5156, 0917 9732440.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

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ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
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Tels. 747-8599; 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1760
AUREA QUIOGUE FUNERAL HOMES
243 A.B. Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City, Pangasinan
Tels. (0785) 522-3451; 522-2128; (0917) 434-9976
CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
1305 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City; Tel. 732-0309; 732-1095
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu
Tels. 346-2543; 346-2601
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Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City; Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City; Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1258
DAYAO FUNERAL HOME
#2 Bayani St., Galas, Quezon City
Tels. 740-2683; 781-3705; 781-3688; 413-9400; 715-5594
DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City
Tels. (047) 222-3605; (047) 811-1086; (047) 222-4512; (047) 224-2014
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City; Tel. 894-5932 to 34
DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St., Manuguit, Manila
Tels. 712-5102; 741-5125; 741-5133; Fax No. 711-3064
FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila
Tels. 2812963; 2813034; 2810522
FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
Tels. (045) 888-2959 ; (045) 322-5247
F. SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City; Tels. 646-1725; 646-1730
FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City; Tels. 641-7909; 641-1735
M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila; Tels. 642-3010; 633-3602
FUNERARIA TUASON
Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan 3011; Tels. (044) 764-0281; 678-0266; (0917) 895-0603

FUNERARIA SAMSON
145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite; Tels. (046) 471-3375; 471-2675
GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Calsadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila; Tels. 642-6181 to 82
HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Sucat, Parañaque City; Tels. 825-1296; 825-1291
LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#27 Crisologo St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur ; Tel. 722-2730; Cell (0917) 5680136; (0917) 5680145
Manila #23 Pato St., Project 2, Quezon City; Tel. 434-3258
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1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua, Manila; Tels. 711-6931 to 35; 732-4795
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79 Naguillan Rd., Baguio City; Tel. (074) 443-3337
LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City; Tel. 895-1011 to 19
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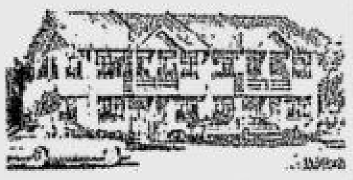

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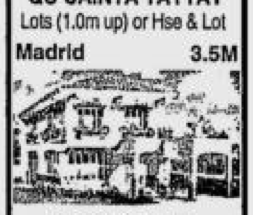

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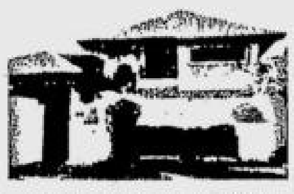

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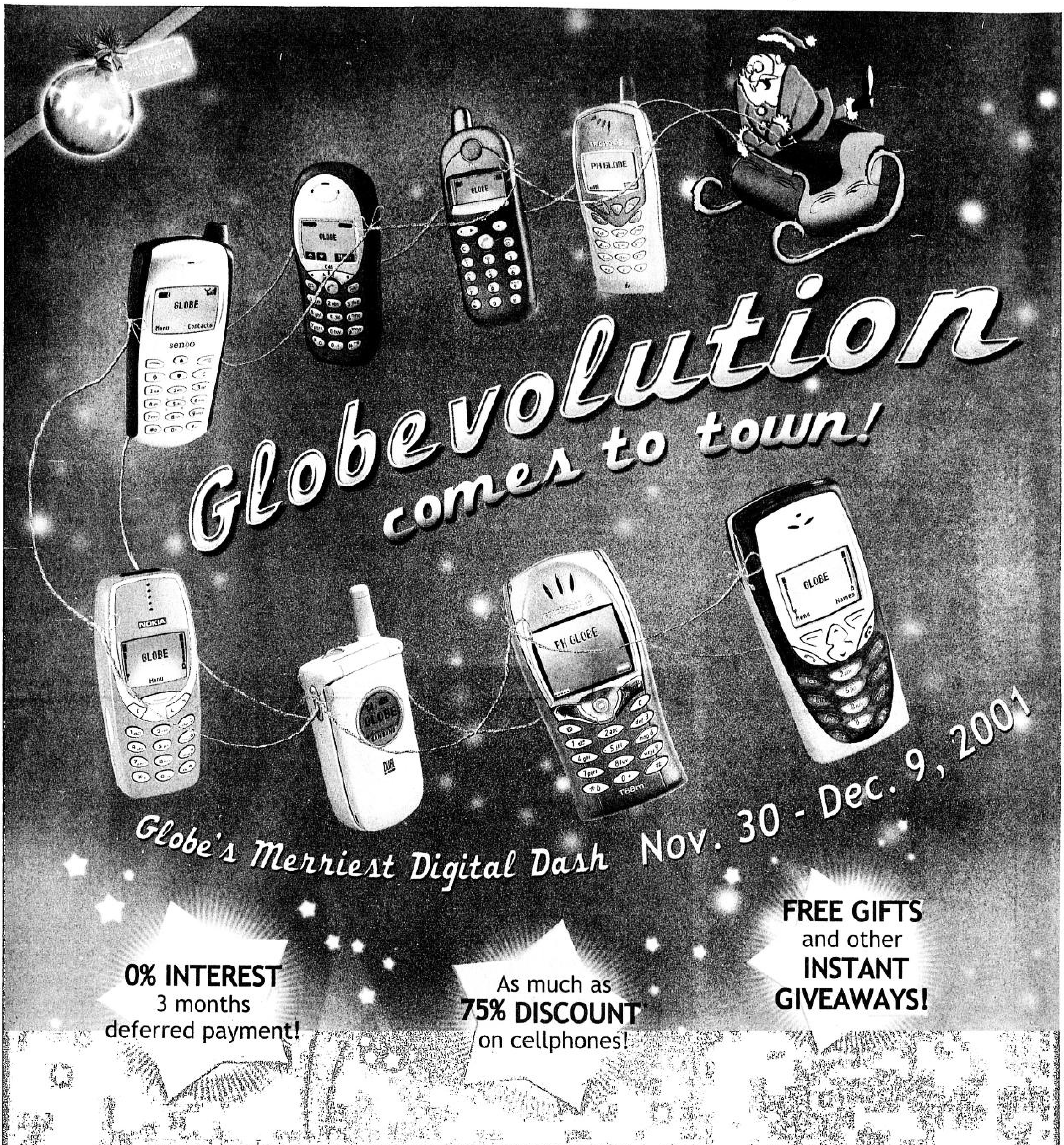
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Health project empowers Bicolanas

By Linda B. Bolido
Contributor

WHEN another foreign-funded project was started in their barangay, Rosario Gonzales and Sylvia Barnedo said they were skeptical.

Gonzales recalled that everybody expected it to be another "*ningas-kugon*" initiative and "*gagamitin lang sa pulitika.*" The reaction in Barnedo's community was no different. "*Gagamitin lang para magkapera (ang mga pulitiko) lalo pa* foreigner *(ang* sponsor)."

Today, Gonzales and Barnedo seem quite happy that, despite their initial misgivings, they opted to participate in the Women's Health and Safe Motherhood Project-Partnerships Component (WHSMP-PC).

Gonzales, a member of the board of Sorsogon's Bulusan Integrated Women's Health and Development Organization in Barangay Sabang, reported how what started as a health initiative had helped empower women in her community and make them aware of their rights.

"*Sa Bulusan, ang isang (lalaking) nambubugbog ay ipinakulong ng asawa,*" she said. Although the man had since been released, he seemed to have learned his lesson well as his wife no longer complains of being beaten. As for other men who use their wives as punching bags, Gonzales said the women's group had resorted to peer pressure and the traditional Filipino value of "*hiya.*" The women would visit a husband known to beat up his wife and try to persuade or (if necessary) shame him to mend his ways.

BELGIAN Ambassador Roland van Remoortele addresses members of the women's organization in Barangay Bonga, Bacacay, Albay.

Gonzales and Barnedo, the president of the Organisasyon para sa Kalusugan ng mga Kababaihan sa San Pedro (a barangay in Albay), were among women leaders who were in Legazpi City, capital of the province of Albay, to brief a group of ambassadors, some with their wives, from the European Union (EU) on the progress of WHSMP-PC.

According to them, the women's newfound assertiveness was among the effects of the project, a collaboration between the government of the Philippines, through the Department of Health (DOH) and local government units (LGU), and the EU. WHSMP-PC supports community women's health actions, including community health saving's schemes, capacity building, and information, education, communication and advocacy. Bicol is one of four regions where the project is underway.

A women's group resorts to peer pressure and the traditional Filipino value of '*hiya*' to make husbands stop beating their wives

Gonzales and Barnedo said prior to the introduction of the project, the women in their communities were "*kulang sa kaalaman sa pag-aalaga ng mga bata, karapatan ng mga babae. Hindi sila mulat at kulang ang kita ng pamilya.*" But getting the women to join the various project groups not only was initially hindered by skepticism but also by the men's opposition.

Educating the men

"*Kulang sa kaalaman (ng kanilang karapatan) ang kababihan. Kung ano ang sabihin ng lalaki ay sumusunod lang,*" Barnedo said. According to Gonzales, "*Problema ang mga asawa. Mawawalan na raw panahon ang mga babae sa gawain sa bahay at aksaya lang ng oras (ang pagsali).*

To overcome the opposition, Gonzales said they had to schedule meetings when the women already finished their chores. "*Kung minsan kahit sa gabi (ang* meeting). (Or) *ipinadadala na lang namin ang mga anak nila sa* meeting," she said.

Barnedo said the women were particularly happy with the knowledge they gained on basic health care they can do at home for their families. "*Gustong-gusto nila ang paggawa ng* herbal medicine. *Ang mga materyales nasa bakuran na nila,*" she said. DOH people then taught them how to prepare the herbal cures for more convenient application.

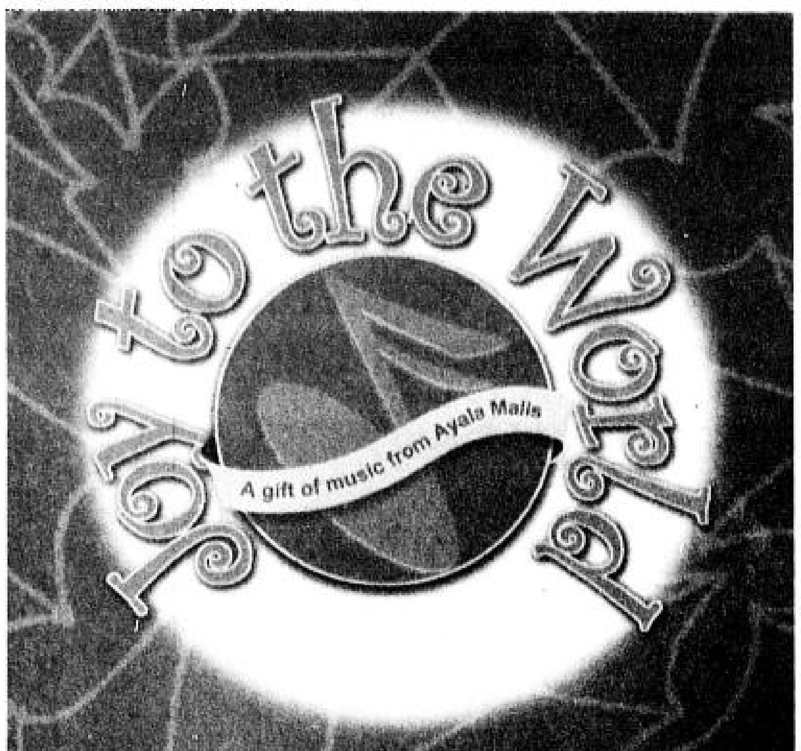
Some livelihood/income-generating activities were bundled into the package of WHSMP-PC services, further promoting the women's move toward self-reliance and empowerment. The women contributed part of their earnings to a community health savings scheme, a simple form of health insurance. Members who have to spend for medical care for themselves or members of their families can borrow from the savings, which they repaid later.

Knowing what they need

Gonzales and Barnedo noted that traditional attitudes of the group members had gradually changed. "*Dati mahirap* (to start the health savings scheme) *dahil para raw nag-iimbita ng sakit* (if money is saved for medical care), the women leaders said. Now, the women—and their husbands—have also become more receptive to the idea of practicing family planning.

"*Praktikal na ang mga babae ngayon.*

HEALTH/ p.C7



Joy to the World
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CHRISTMAS CONCERTS FOR CHARITY

AYALA CENTER MAKATI
Dec. 8, mass at 5pm and a Christmas special with Ryan Agoncillo, Maxine Magalona, Center for Movement & Music Dance Ensemble, and UST Singers.

DAVID POMERANZ
Dec. 11, Beneficiary: Batang Munti Foundation

VERNIE VARGA & KATRINA
Dec. 12, Beneficiary: Batang Munti Foundation

APO HIKING SOCIETY & KIDS
Dec. 13, Beneficiary: Bahay Maria

CALVIN MILLADO, BITUIN ESCALANTE, & THE CAST OF RENT MANILA
Dec. 14, Beneficiary: DSWD-NCR through Destiny Cable

VINA MORALES
Dec. 15, Beneficiary: Make-A-Wish Foundation

ZSA ZSA PADILLA
Dec. 16, Beneficiary: Child and Youth Welfare Program

KUH LEDESMA & ISABELLA
Dec. 17, Beneficiary: Mango Tree House

GARY VALENCIANO
Dec. 18, Beneficiary: UNICEF

OGIE ALCASID
Dec. 19, Beneficiary: GMA Foundation

RACHEL & HAJJI ALEJANDRO
Dec. 20, Beneficiary: World Vision

CRIS VILLONCO & THE COMPANY
Dec. 21, Beneficiary: Bantay Bata 163

MARTIN NIEVERA
Dec. 22, Beneficiary: CENTEX

All concerts at the Glorietta Activity Center, 6pm.

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Dec. 8, mass at 10am and a Christmas Fireworks Show with Cogie Domingo at the Town Plaza, 7pm.

CRIS VILLONCO & WYRD
Dec. 14, Beneficiary: Batang Munti Foundation

AYALA CENTER CEBU

VERNIE VARGA & KATRINA
Dec. 7, Activity Center, 5:30pm
Beneficiary: Cebu Hope Center

HUNI & FIVE SEASONS
Dec. 8, Activity Center, 6pm
Beneficiary: God Made Me Foundation

THE COMPANY
Dec. 16, Lagoon Area, 7pm
Beneficiary: Christ for Asia Foundation

THE UNFORGETTABLES
Dec. 23, Lagoon Area, 7pm
Beneficiary: SOS Children's Village

Catch the Fireworks Show in Ayala Malls. See flyers for details.

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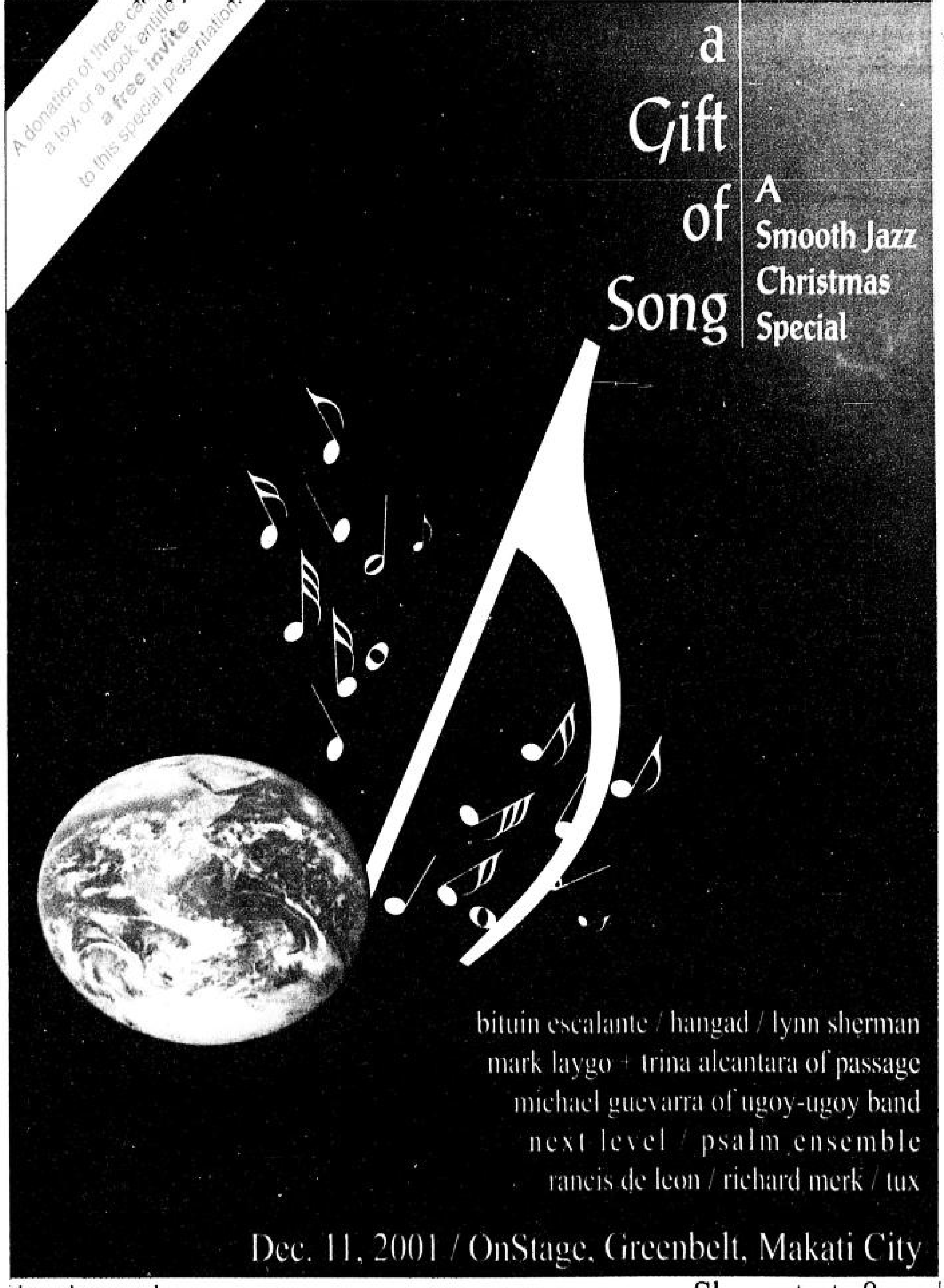

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mark laygo + trina alcantara of passage
michael guevarra of ugoy-ugoy band
next level / psalm ensemble
rancis de leon / richard merk / tux

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IRON	**easy to absorb** helps in brain development and protection from anemia
FATS	**Butterfat-free** for better fat digestion, absorption and proper cell growth

akid
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ATION	
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	25%*
n	40 mg
	none
	not stated
	not stated

*Recommended Daily Allowance

Maraming nag-aakala na ang gatas ay gatas. Pare-pareho lang ang sustansyang dulot ng mga ito. Pero kung iyong mapapansin sa *chart*, malaki ang pagkakaiba.

May gatas na para sa matatanda at may gatas na husto sa mga bata. Para sa mga bata mula sa 1 taong gulang pataas, hindi matutugunan ng ordinaryong gatas ang sustansyang kailangan nila. Dahil hindi pa ganap ang kanilang paglaki, bata pa ang kanilang mga buto, baby pa ang ngipin at maselan pa ang tiyan.

Kaya may Bonakid. Taglay ang mga bitamina't sustansya na siyang kailangan ng mga bata mula edad 1 pataas (base sa Filipino RDA). Mayroon din itong **Vitamin A** na pampatalas ng paningin; **Calcium** at **Vitamin D** na tumutulong para maging malakas at matibay ang mga buto; at **B-complex Vitamins** na nagbibigay lakas at sigla, lalo na't nasa edad sila ng pagiging aktibo. Tanging Bonakid ang may **Beta Carotene** para tumulong sa pagpapalakas ng resistensya.

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Ngayon, bibigyan mo pa rin ba siya ng ordinaryong gatas?

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Little folks, big minds

THERE'S something uncanny about these 6- to 9-year-olds. Perhaps it's the unabashed way they strike conversations with adults, or how easily they express their thoughts and feelings in writing and in their drawings. Just a few minutes spent with them is all it takes to realize how extraordinary they are.

They are the children of the Center of Excellence in Public Elementary Education, a project of Ayala Foundation Inc. that provides bright young children from underprivileged communities with quality education. Nearly 500 students from kindergarten to Grade 3 are now enrolled in Centex's two campuses in Tondo and Batangas.

KIT Zobel show resin artworks created by children.

Despite their less-than-ideal home environments, the children are quick to learn, catching up to levels of peers in private schools within months of studying at Centex. Jobert Gutierrez of Kinder-Magalang recently wrote: "When I was a baby, I slept in the cradle. I love drinking milk and eating oatmeal. I rode on my walker and play (sic) my ball. Now that I'm a grownup boy, I go to school. I study and play computer. I like to sing and dance." He went to school for the first time in June this year.

His achievements are largely the result of a fully integrated curriculum where content is connected with life skills; where topics taken up in school have relevance to everyday lives. Thus, Centex students absorb lessons easily, learn to speak English fluently, read and write in print while only in kindergarten. Across all levels, these young students are topping the DECS-administered national exams.

PROUD of their art, kids display their hearts.

More schools

Given its successes with these students, Centex's mission is now to build more such schools across the country. This season, the primary fund-raising activity for the school is a kiosk in Glorietta selling resin heart artworks made by the children themselves. They are displayed side by side with Bencab's "Mag-Ina," a mother-and-child painting rendered in limited-edition porcelain plates and a line of paper products developed for the benefit of the school.

Centex volunteer Kit Zobel, who recently spent a morning painting resin hearts with the children of Centex Tondo, believes that by giving these young children access to knowledge, they are empowered to make choices and decisions for themselves, an important skill for a leader.

Centex also fosters social skills. "We make them aware of themselves and encourage them to relate to one another," says Dr. Honey Carandang, a Centex consultant. "We look into their socio-emotional development. We teach them to respect each other." To realize these goals, a self-esteem program and a program that enforces "discipline with dignity" are built into the curriculum.

Poor children fashion a brighter future for themselves through Centex

Holistic

This holistic approach to education is part of the school's vision to raise children who are socially responsible and dedicated to the care of their community and environment. Explains Dr. Carandang: "We can't just focus on the intellect. We are training them to be servant leaders and such leaders have compassion, honesty and confidence."

One strategy that Centex employs is nurturing the children's creativity. "We build flexibility and fluency of thought, what we call 'higher order thinking skills,' not just comprehension or memorizing," explains curriculum consultant Letty Sala. At Centex, students are encouraged to think out of the box and given opportunities to try out new ideas and new ways of thinking. They are also encouraged to express their creativity in nonacademic activities such as journal writing or art.

Only time will tell if the Centex approach will succeed in its mission of raising future leaders. But already there are signs that it is working. Says Zobel: "I am convinced that some of these children will be leaders who are sensitive to the needs of all socioeconomic classes. Their education is a tool that will uplift their lives and they will eventually give back to this society."

BINIBINING Pilipinas titleholders and kids sing "It's a Small World."

Hard times increase anticipation . . .

(From page C8)

Canada, Japan, Norway, Sweden, Netherlands, Scotland, Belarus, Brazil, Romania and Hungary. Skaters spent a total of 1,200 hours in rehearsal.

This year's show is directed by Jerry Bilik and choreographed by Sarah Kawahara.

Fascinating facts and figures

The holiday treat began in 1979 when father-and-son producers Irvin and Kenneth Feld acquired the rights to the US touring units of Ice Follies and Holiday on Ice. But Kenneth had an idea. He wanted to create a different extravaganza on ice by incorporating Disney themes and stories. After getting a license from Disney Enterprises to produce the show, Feld Entertainment presented Disney on Ice in 1981. The production was initially a variety show, which featured a collection of Disney stories and stars—"Snow White" and "Pinocchio." Through the years, the producers have expanded the production to include more shows such as "Toy Story," "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs."

LUCAS Pasilliao, executive vice president and chief operating officer of Uniprom Inc.

MAXINE Magalona slices the cake in celebration of 100 years of Disney magic.

Christmas is for children and they should see and feel the joy of Christmas even in these trying times

For the Philippine performances, Huab says it would take about 10-14 hours to set up the production. But it will take only four to five hours to tear them down. The figure skaters need an average size of 120 ft x 60 ft of ice skating surface.

The tallest point of the Castle is about 36 ft. The total weight of the castle set is 20,000 pounds. Monstro the Whale is 36 ft long. Four motorized floats, with 18 countries, are represented in the "It's a Small World" segment. More than a thousand people are working on the 147 costumes.

Disney On Ice tickets are now available at all SM Ticketnet outlets at P950, P750, P350 and P80.

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

CHILDREN from Centex give an outstanding performance during the "Ayala Malls Christmas Gifts Celebration" launch.

'Tis the season to be jolly at the malls

FIREWORKS spectacles and show biz's biggest stars highlight Ayala Center's "Christmas Gifts Celebrations" for 2001.

This month, there is fireworks display every Friday (8 p.m.), Saturday and Sunday (7 p.m.) at the Glorietta, and every Saturday and Sunday (7 p.m.) in Alabang Town Center until Dec. 22.

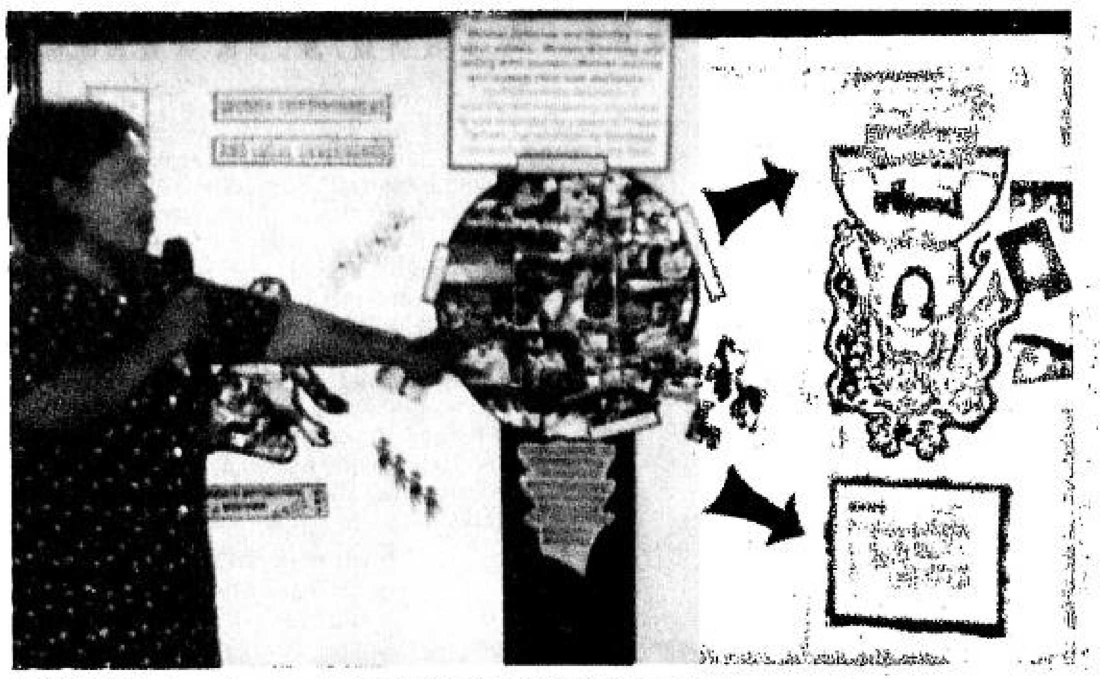
The "12 Days of Christmas" concert series Dec. 11-22 opens with sentimentalist David Pomeranz, and continues with the likes of the Apo and their kids, balladeer and comic Ogie Alcasid; Kuh Ledesma and daughter Isabella; Verni Varga and daughter Katrina; powerful talents, The Company and Cris Villonco; Hadji and Rachel Alejandro; Vina Morales; Calvin Millado, Bituin Escalante and the cast of the musical "Rent," Gary Valenciano, Zsa Zsa Padilla and Martin Nievera.

Ayala Center shopping bags are printed with the specially commissioned works of artist Robert Labayen on the theme of "Love for Country, God and Family." Every P500 purchase from any Ayala Malls participating establishment entitles the shopper to this functional work of art that can be redeemed from the customer service booths.

DON'T be late for an important date with "Alice in Christmasland," the special presentation at Robinsons malls. Diane de la Fuente leads the cast as Alice under the direction of Jaime del Mundo, with James Laforteza's choreography. Today at 3 and 5 p.m. at Robinsons Imus; Dec. 12, 5 p.m., at Robinsons Galleria; Dec. 15-16, 3 and 5 p.m., at Robinsons Novaliches; Dec. 19, 5 p.m., at Robinsons Manila; and Dec. 22-23, 3 and 5 p.m., at Robinsons Metro East.

ERNIE SARMIENTO

THE CENTERPIECE of Festival Supermall's Christmas celebration is catch "Hansel And Gretel" at 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. today at 2/L Carousel Court, Festival Supermall, Filinvest, Alabang. Admission is free. The mall is also deliciously decorated with gingerbread, candy canes and lollipops.



A MEMBER of another group explains the illustrations on a board.

MEMBERS of a women's group present a skit describing the collaboration among village organizations, government agencies and local government units.

Health project empowers Bicolanas

(From page C2)

Alam ng babae na kailangan (family planning)," according to Barnedo. She noted that it was also easier to convince men about the merits of limiting the sizes of their families. As for the preferred methods, she said the women went for the pill, natural family planning or tubal ligation.

Both Barnedo and Gonzales said abortion, which is illegal in the Philippines, was not a serious problem in their communities.

As for the imminent end of EU support for the project, the two women expressed confidence that the project would continue with the help of local and barangay officials. "*Nakakahinayang naman kung bibitiwan. Naka-plano na na ituloy*," Gonzales said. "*Ang* LGU *at barangay ay nakahanda na* (to take over implementation of the project). *Pagsisikapan na ituloy dahil maganda ang* objectives."

Dr. Gerardo V. Bayugo, DOH-Child Health Development regional director, said shifting the program from a joint effort to a local initiative was not going to be much of a problem. "It (program) does not need a large investment and the technical support is available. It is just the LGU's willingness (to assume responsibility for the program) that is needed," he said.

On its part, Bayugo said the department was very much into advocacy for maternal and child care and safe motherhood. He said a major focus was getting the agency's own people to be aware of and to respect the rights of both men and women.

The DOH official said steps were being taken to make government health and medical care facilities more women-friendly. "One reason many women are reluctant to visit rural health units is (because they do not find the staff and facilities) women-friendly," he said.

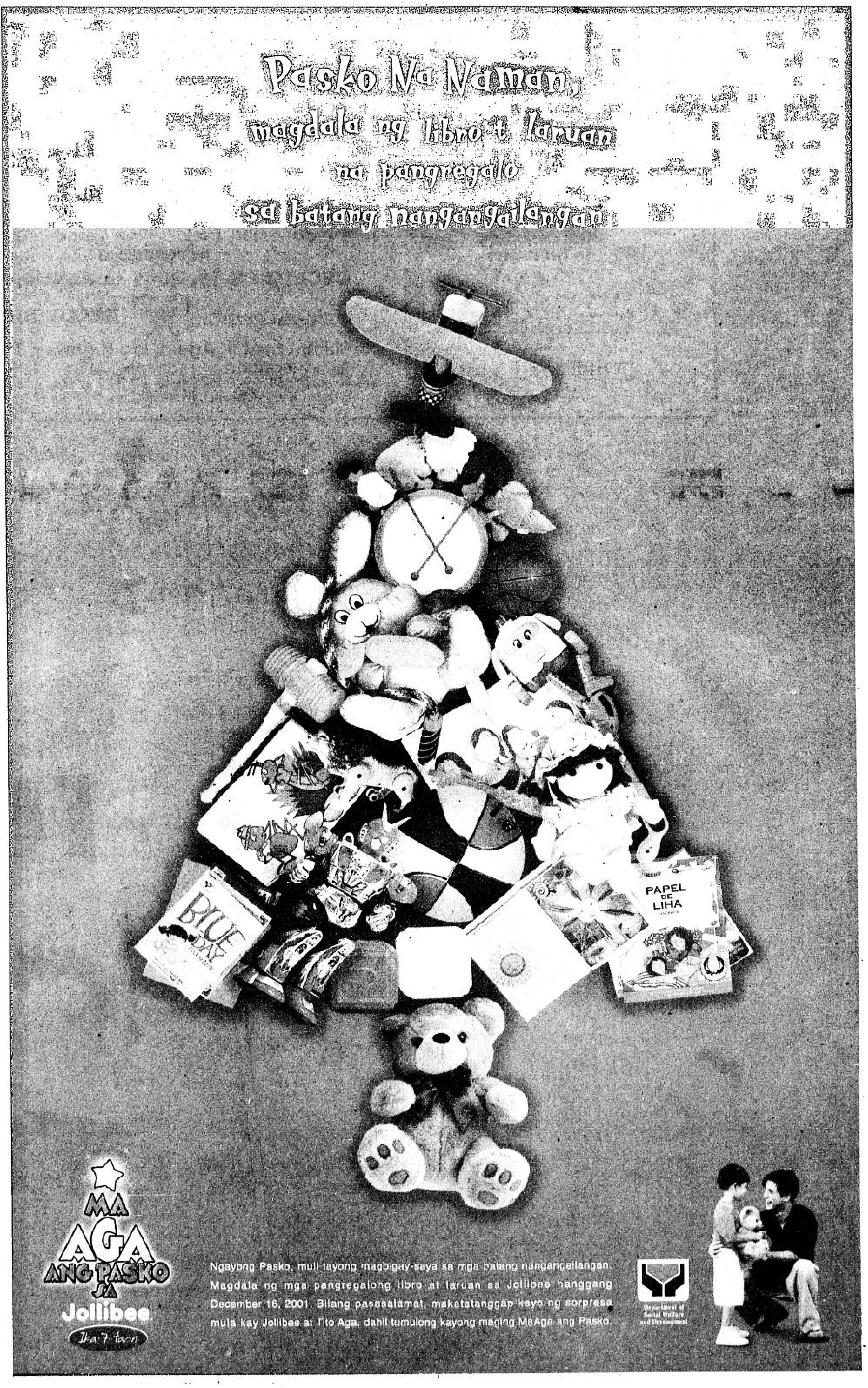
The department, according to him, was conducting training to make its staff, particularly those at the grass roots, like nurses and midwives, more gender sensitive. At the same time, health personnel and barangay officials were involved in an advocacy campaign to make the public in general more gender sensitive.

Richard Mullins of the WHSMP-PC said "The program is really about helping people to help themselves. No amount of money can give people the ability to do things by themselves."

Those who visited Legazpi City were Ambassador Roland van Remoortele of Belgium, Ambassador Raimo Anttola of Finland, Ambassador Herbert Jess of Germany, Ambassador and Mme. Umberto Colesanti of Italy, Ambassador Joao Caetano da Silva of Portugal, Ambassador and Mme. Ulf Hakansson of Sweden, and Ambassador and Mme. Alan Collins of the United Kingdom.

ROSARIO Gonzales

SYLVIA Barnedo


Pasko Na Naman, magdala ng libro't laruan na pangregalo sa batang nangangailangan

BLUE DAY
PAPEL DE LIHA
MA AGA ANG PASKO SA Jollibee
Ika-7 taon
Department of Social Welfare and Development

Ngayong Pasko, muli tayong magbigay-saya sa mga batang nangangailangan. Magdala ng mga pangregalong libro at laruan sa Jollibee hanggang December 16, 2001. Bilang pasasalamat, makatatanggap kayo ng sorpresa mula kay Jollibee at Tito Aga, dahil tumulong kayong maging MaAga ang Pasko.

Hard times increase anticipation of Christmas

By Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

BECAUSE of the hard times—and not in spite of it—Christmas is pushing through, including the most-awaited family event of the year, the Disney on Ice.

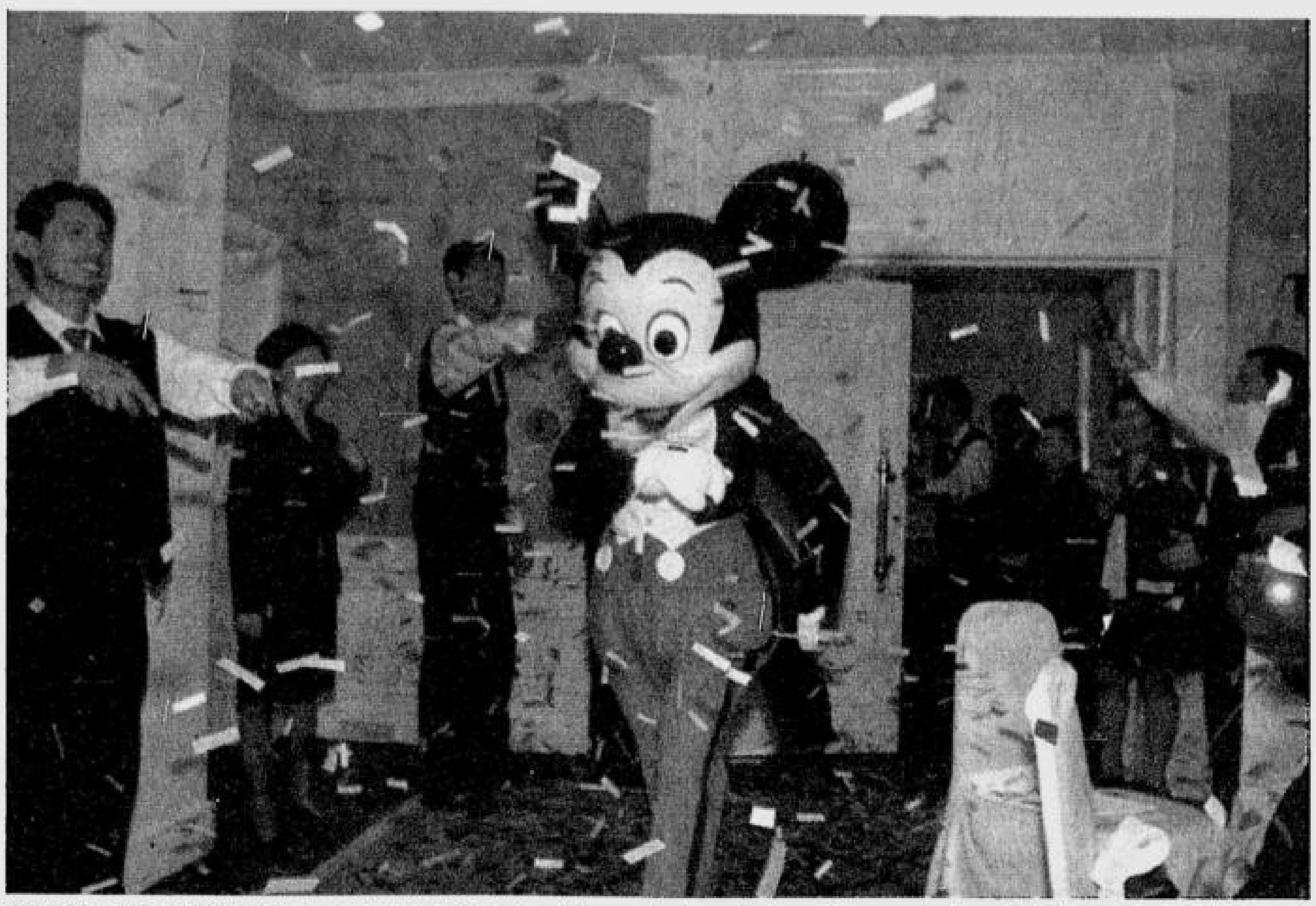
Aiming to offer hope and joy in what seems to be a gloomy Yuletide season, Mickey Mouse and friends are bringing laughter and cheer—and banishing the blues, at least, for the meantime—as they have been doing through the years.

"Just because there are problems and confusion, it doesn't mean we will forget the spirit of Christmas," says Antonio S. Huab, regional marketing director for Asia Pacific of Feld Entertainment Inc. "After all, Christmas is for the children and they are the least affected by the problems."

Indeed, Christmas is for our children and they should see and feel the joy of Christmas even in these trying times. This is what people behind the annual Disney on Ice also feel. "That's why we will make this year's Disney on Ice more memorable and entertaining for young and old alike," vows Huab.

For the first time, the magical show brings to life Walt Disney's unforgettable stories and captivating characters that have entertained families the world over. The 20th production of Disney on Ice features the largest cast ever of lovable Disney characters —Micky Mouse and girlfriend Minnie, Pinocchio, The Mouseketeers, Buzz Lightyear, Donald Duck, Woody and more. And for the very first time on ice, enchanting moments from "Mulan," "A Bug's Life" and "The Lion King."

Disney on Ice celebrates 100 years of Disney Magic from Dec. 22 to Jan. 6 at the Araneta Coliseum. The production also features beautifully choreographed figure skating set to favorite Disney music "When You Wish upon a Star," "Beauty and the Beast" and "Can You Feel the Love Tonight." The audience will see dazzling sets from Cinderella's Castle to the Great Wall of China.



GRAND ENTRANCE. Mickey Mouse brings laughter and cheer in the 20th production of Disney on Ice.

"The sets are faithful to the look of the movie, with a contemporary twist. Anyone who loved the movie will surely love this ice show," says Lucas Pasiliao, executive vice president and chief operating officer of Uniprom Inc., the marketing firm of Araneta Coliseum.

Kids will also be delighted with the special lighting system, remote-controlled fireworks, fog machines, and other special-effect tricks as well as wardrobe and costumes.

Last year, with "The Little Mermaid" as theme, spectators at the Big Dome were mesmerized by the romance and adventures of Ariel and Prince Eric.

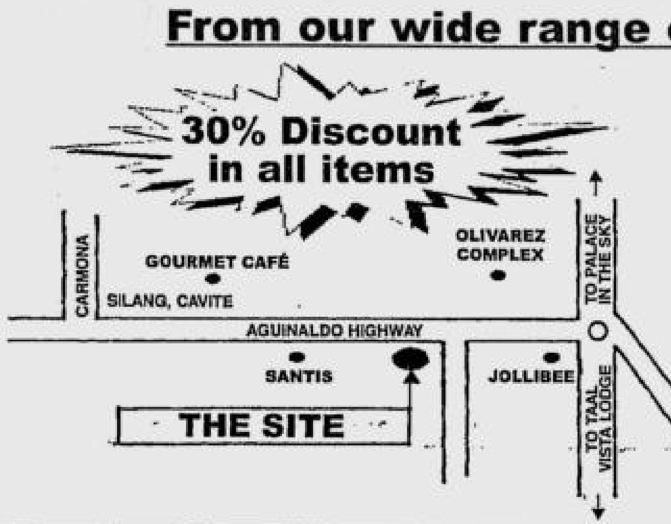
Fantastic performances

The figure skaters, who will arrive in Manila on Dec. 17, will dazzle audiences with their towering triple jumps, ice back flips, rapid spins and other breathtaking maneuvers. As in past shows, says Huab, they will demonstrate extremely good footwork that will propel them to great heights. Huab says watching the figure skaters move across the frozen surface will be like watching Olympic competitors.

The skaters come from different nations, but they are one, big, happy family in the production. In the touring entourage of 52 figure skaters are world-champion ice skaters and even Olympic medallists.

The cast, crew and staff will come from the United States, Russia, England, Australia,

HARD/p.C6



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Dec. 15-16, SM City North EDSA, SM City Pampanga, SM City Davao and KCC Mall General Santos

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Weddings Engagements

THE COUPLE
Sen. Rodolfo and Monchie Biazon

BIAZON RUBY ANNIVERSARY

Renewing vows made 40 years ago

Story on page D2

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THE COUPLE with daughter Richie and son Ruffy

PMA Delta Company cadets stand in attention as anniversary couple Sen. Rodolfo and Monchie Biazon march down the aisle.

They started as pen pals, back when the senator was a PMA cadet and she a working student at the University of Santo Tomas

Renewing vows made 40 years ago

SENATOR Biazon (extreme right) with Sen. Tito Sotto (from left), taipan Lucio Tan, Sen. Rene Cayetano and Sen. Ed Angara

By Donnie C. Ramirez

WITH JOYOUS hearts, we have joined you, Pong and Monchie, in this celebration of thanksgiving and love for all the goodness that God has showered you. May the years to come be years of even greater blessings and gifts from God."

With this inspiring homily, Bishop Ramon C. Arguelles, D.D., Military Ordinariate of the Philippines, paid tribute to the solid 40-year union of Sen. Rodolfo "Pong" Biazon and Monserrat "Monchie" Bonuan-Biazon. The couple renewed their vows at touching rites held at the St. Ignatius Chapel inside Camp Aguinaldo on Dec. 2. It was in the same chapel where Pong and Monchie were married almost to the day 40 years ago.

Crimson red roses lined the aisles and filled the altar, a choice in keeping with the occasion as

RENEWING/ p.D4

BOYING Ong Oh III and wife Bernardine with Bobby Go, Jr.

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He's beginning to discover many different things. New colors, tastes, textures, feelings and ideas. At the same time he's discovered he can control his own fingers, feet and the rest of his body, and he will put them all to test.

He is curious. There are many things you can't prevent him from experiencing. Even when you're right beside him, but especially when you're not looking. He will fall off that bike, splash in the mud, he will pick up that fallen piece of food and he will probably still eat it.

For those instances that you can't prevent, at least be prepared. You can still protect him. Give him **ANCHOR 1+ with Nutri-Care.**

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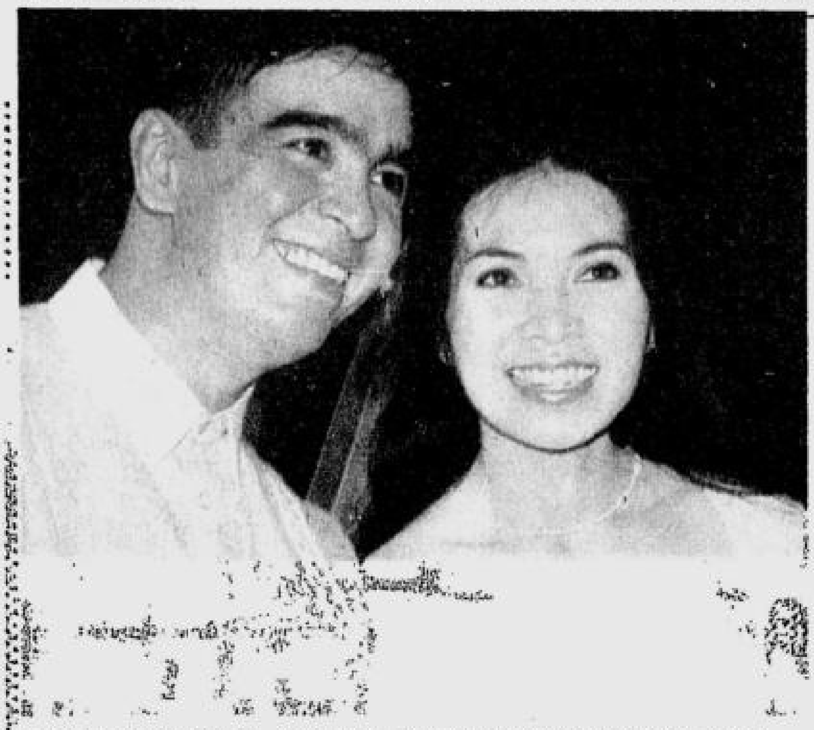

THE NEWLYWEDS. Jose Miguel Anton and Tricia Zosa Anton

WITH THEIR SPONSORS Ernesto and Mary Ann Reynoso, Sulficio Tagud Jr., Jeanette Garcia Zosa, Irma Atillo, Fernando Zobel de Ayala, Asuncion Velez and Roman Sy

Evening wedding unites Cebuana and 'highlander'

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

IT was an elegant evening wedding at the Cebu Cathedral for **Tricia Zosa** and **Jose Miguel Anton**. She is the lovely, exquisitely refined daughter of **Francis Zosa** and **Teresita Cabatingan Zosa**. Mike is the son of **Miguel Anton** and the vivacious former **Edna Reynoso** of Baguio City.

Rev. Fr. **Patrick Martin** of the Redemptorists officiated at the nuptial Mass.

Principal sponsors were **Fernando Zobel de Ayala, Irma Bernadette Atillo, Sulficio Tagud Jr., Jeannette Garcia Zosa, Roman Sy, Sony Velez, Ernesto** and **Mary Ann Reynoso** proxying for **Alexander Cham** and **Heilia Philipps.**

Mike's children from a previous marriage, who adore Tricia, figured prominently in the bridal entourage. **Pocholo** was his dad's best man while his sister **Camille** made a very pretty bridesmaid. Tricia's sister **Trina** was maid of honor.

Also in the entourage were **Michelle Bumgarner**, bridesmaid; **Richard Mercado** and **Carlos Reynoso**, groomsmen; **Cyrus Polloso**, ring and coin bearer; and **Dasha Toledo**, flower girl.

Attending Mike and Tricia during the rites were **Carlos Anton** and **Rachelle Reynes**, candle sponsors; **Joel Retuya** and **Ma. Teresa Zosa**, veil sponsors; and **Jess Garcia** and **Karen Navarette**, cord sponsors. Dashing darling cavalier **Maurice Arcache** was in the offertory procession carrying the Hosts and wine. The Heavenly Rhythms, with **Gigi Ruiz**, sang hymns throughout the ceremony.

More sublime music was played at the reception held in the City Sports Club near Ayala Center. The Strings from the Peace Philharmonic played classics, light music and beautifully arranged pop tunes. The decor at the church and at the reception was another masterwork of the team of **Teresing Mendezona, Pinky Chang** and architect **Tessie Javier**. The fabulous buffet was prepared by **Lita Urbina** whose homemade ham at the carving station was the first and last stop.

Mother of the groom, Edna, hopped from table to table, camera on hand, a blaze of diamonds on her neck. She came to one big table and said, "Everyone is here." Everyone, that is, who had a role in the wedding or Tricia's life. There was Father Martin and Teresing, **Philip Rodriguez** who did the bridal gown, Tricia's aunt and schoolmarm **Lygia Ibañez**, and **Marilou Rodriguez Cañizares** who good-naturedly accepted praises for her identical twin, **Marissa**, who baked the magnificent cake. Although there was a place for **Raul Arambulo**, he did not take a seat as he was busy taking the photos you see on this page today.

In a place of honor sat Mike's dear grandma **Africa Valdez**, who led a large group of relatives from Luzon. Mike and Tricia plan to settle in a home at Valle Verde. At the first opportunity, however, they will travel to Spain to meet Anton's many relatives there.

MIGUEL and Edna Anton

TITA and Francis Zosa

TRINA Zosa, Michelle Bumgarner and Camille Anton

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SENATE President Frank Drilon and wife Mila

SEN. Nene Pimentel and wife Bing

REP. Cynthia Villar and Sen. Manny Villar

SEN. Blas Ople and wife Susan

SEN. Tessie Oreta and husband Len

Renewing vows made 40 years ago

(From page D2)

it was the Biazons' ruby anniversary. Thirty-one cadets from the Delta Company of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) came down from Baguio City for the saber ceremony honoring their outstanding "mistah" and his lovely wife.

Present at the renewal rites were the couple's children—youngest son Rozzano Rufino "Ruffy" Biazon, a first-time congressman from Muntinlupa City, with his pretty wife Trina (nee Reyes) and their children; and only daughter Richie, a former Bb. Pilipinas runner-up and now an international flight stewardess, with her goodlooking husband Neal and their kids. Another son Rino, a computer analyst based in Canada, could not leave his work in Montreal. He sent his warm greetings via a video clip.

Like a romance novel

Pong and Monchie's love story reads like a Mills & Boon romance novel. They started as pen pals, back when the senator was a PMA cadet and she a working student at the University of Santo Tomas. Pong saw her picture in the locker of her nephew Rogie, who was Biazon's classmate at the academy. Attracted by her Sophia Loren-like features, he started to write to her. They finally met in Malacañang when Biazon's class participated in the birthday celebration of then President Carlos P. Garcia. The attraction was mutual.

BIAZON daughter Richie and husband Neal Salang

MUNTINLUPA Rep. Ruffy Biazon and wife Trina

Three days after he graduated from the PMA, Pong and Monchie were married at a simple civil ceremony in Binangonan, Rizal. Her nephew Rogie, their matchmaker, was the lone *ninong*. "It cost us only P4 for that civil wedding," Monchie recalls with amusement.

The church wedding took place on Dec. 3, 1961 at Camp Aguinaldo's St. Ignatius Chapel. His PMA classmates were there to draw their sabers for the newlyweds. "It was a most memorable event in our life," Monchie gushes.

PHILIP Juico (standing) with Don Jaime Zobel de Ayala (from left), Bea Zobel Mercy Tuason and Margie Juico

At the dinner-reception following their renewal of vows, the senator and his lovely wife were the picture of a happy and devoted couple as they greeted their well-wishers like Don Jaime Zobel de Ayala and his wife Bea, Philip and Margie Juico, Mercy Tuason, taipan Lucio Tan, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, Philippine Marines Commandant Gen. Librado Ladia, Postmaster-General Nicasio Rodriguez, Philippine Coast Guard Commandant Vice Admiral Reuben Lista and Chief of Naval Staff Commodore Ernesto de Leon. Biazon's staunch supporters from Mindanao, Gonzalo "Buboy" Go Jr. of Cagayan de Oro City, and Boying Ong Oh III from Agusan del Norte flew in for the occasion.

The senator's colleagues, like Senate President Frank Drilon and Senators John Osmeña, Manny Villar (with wife Las Piñas Rep. Cynthia Aguilar-Villar), Tito Sotto, Tessie Oreta, Rene Cayetano, Ed Angara and Blas Ople were there. Also present was former Sen. Ernie Maceda.

"My dream is to continue to watch the sunrise and sunset with my husband and my family for the rest of our life together," a smiling Mrs. Biazon says, holding her husband's hand while watching and listening to the PMA Class '61 and the new Delta Company plebes sing their favorite love songs.

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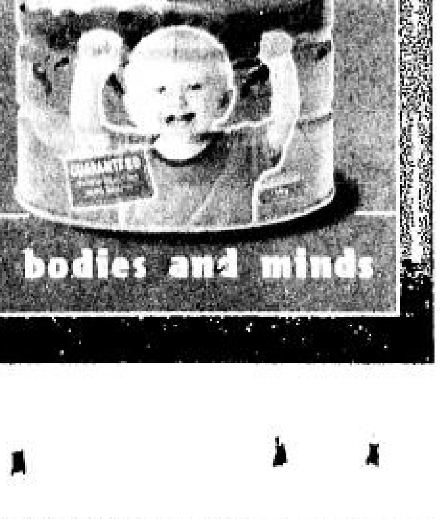


To help protect growing bodies and minds

She's afraid to express her feelings for a classmate

LOVE NOTES

Joe D' Mango

DEAR Joe,

Call me Joy, a senior college student in one of the prestigious universities in Manila. My problem started when I met Elton, a classmate in one of my minor subjects. It was his dimples that caught my fancy.

We sat close to each other, but we never talked. He rarely smiled at me, but that didn't matter. One day he finally noticed my existence and asked me if I had a boyfriend. I told him I had one. I had to lie every time someone asked me that question because nobody would believe me if I said otherwise. It's not that I didn't have suitors, but it was so hard to find someone I really like. Some of them were rich and good-looking, but boring. Some were cute and intelligent, but conceited.

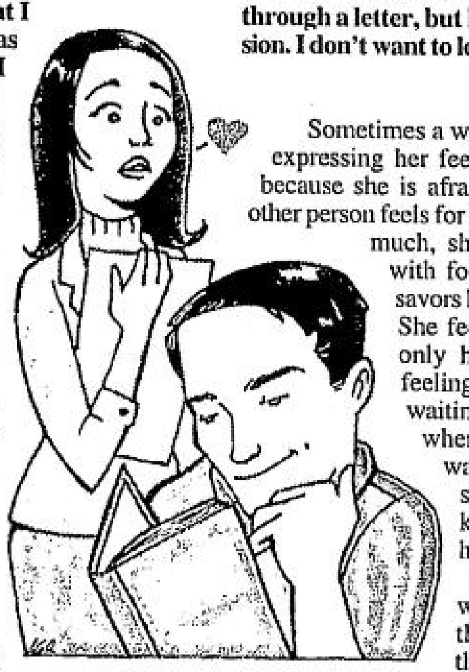


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

When I met Elton, the man of my dreams, I wished we could be lovers. But how could we be if he didn't like me. He was neat, good-looking, smart, assertive and very thoughtful. No wonder, many girls on our campus had a crush on him. I knew that what I felt for him was different. His gestures were more than just friendly and because of his caring and thoughtful ways, I fell for him.

Since February, we've become close friends. We talk about a lot of things even during class hours. We share many happy moments. One time, he accompanied me to my next class because he was depressed not seeing his girlfriend for a long time. I don't know if he was trying to hurt me or he just wanted to see how I would react. I couldn't show my love for him; instead, I treated him harshly.

During the semestral break, I thought that this crazy feeling would fade away, but it grew even deeper. I saw him again when classes resumed last June, but I didn't have the courage to greet him. When he saw me, he told me to give his regards to my "boyfriend." I wanted to tell him, "It's you I want, that's why I haven't committed myself to anybody yet." But I didn't have the guts to reveal what I truly felt for him. Before we parted, he said, "*Ingat.*" I didn't know if he was just being friendly or if he meant something else. I'm not sure if he likes me but he's always on my mind.

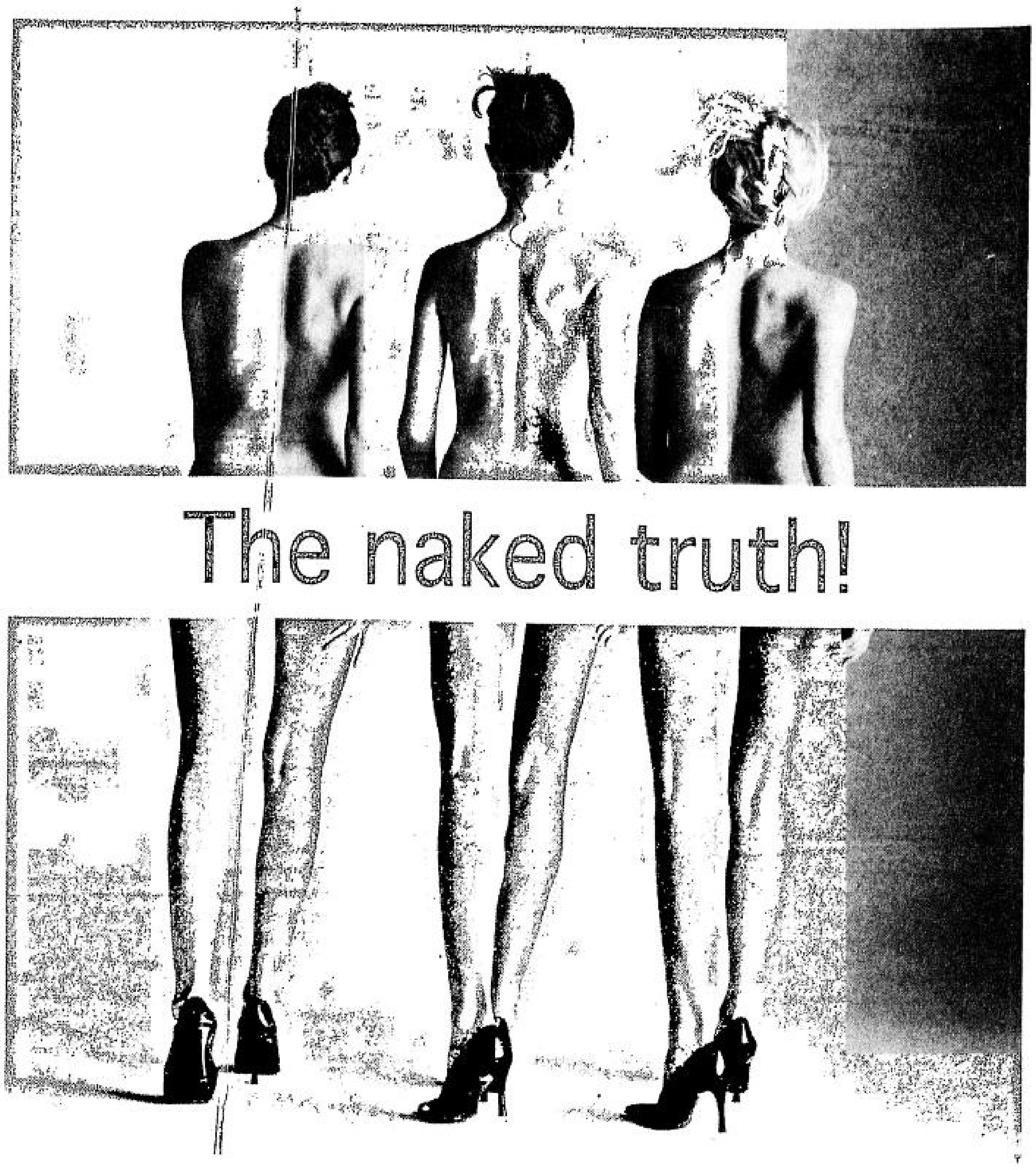
I want to let him know what I feel for him through a letter, but he might get a bad impression. I don't want to lose him. Tell me what to do.

JOY

Sometimes a woman gets scared in openly expressing her feelings for someone, simply because she is afraid of finding out what the other person feels for her. Even if she likes him so much, she just treads on each day with fond thoughts of him as she savors his presence from a distance. She feels safer there because she only has to deal with her own feelings. She wastes precious time waiting for the right chance and when she finally goes out of her way to reach out to this person and make her feelings known, it's too late. He would have found someone else.

Not all men are good when it comes to relating their feelings. They have their own different styles and some even wait for a sign before they proceed with their plans. It's really hard to tell how a guy feels for a girl just by interpreting his actions. If you really like Elton, then you have to help him express himself. I don't think he would get a bad impression if you sincerely express what you feel. There are a hundred different ways of getting into a man's heart. Let him know how you feel. Tell him that you like him and enjoy being with him. Send him a note or treat him to *merienda*. Be simple and sincere. Just be yourself. When your message gets through, I'm sure that he's going to make the next move. If you're meant for each other, this can be the start of a beautiful forever. Good luck and my best wishes.

Listen to the full-length version of this story on Joe D' Mango's "Lovenotes" on Wave 89.1. E-mail him at dearjoe@lovenotes.fm or visit www.lovenotes.fm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1° st
Lightly Lined Lift

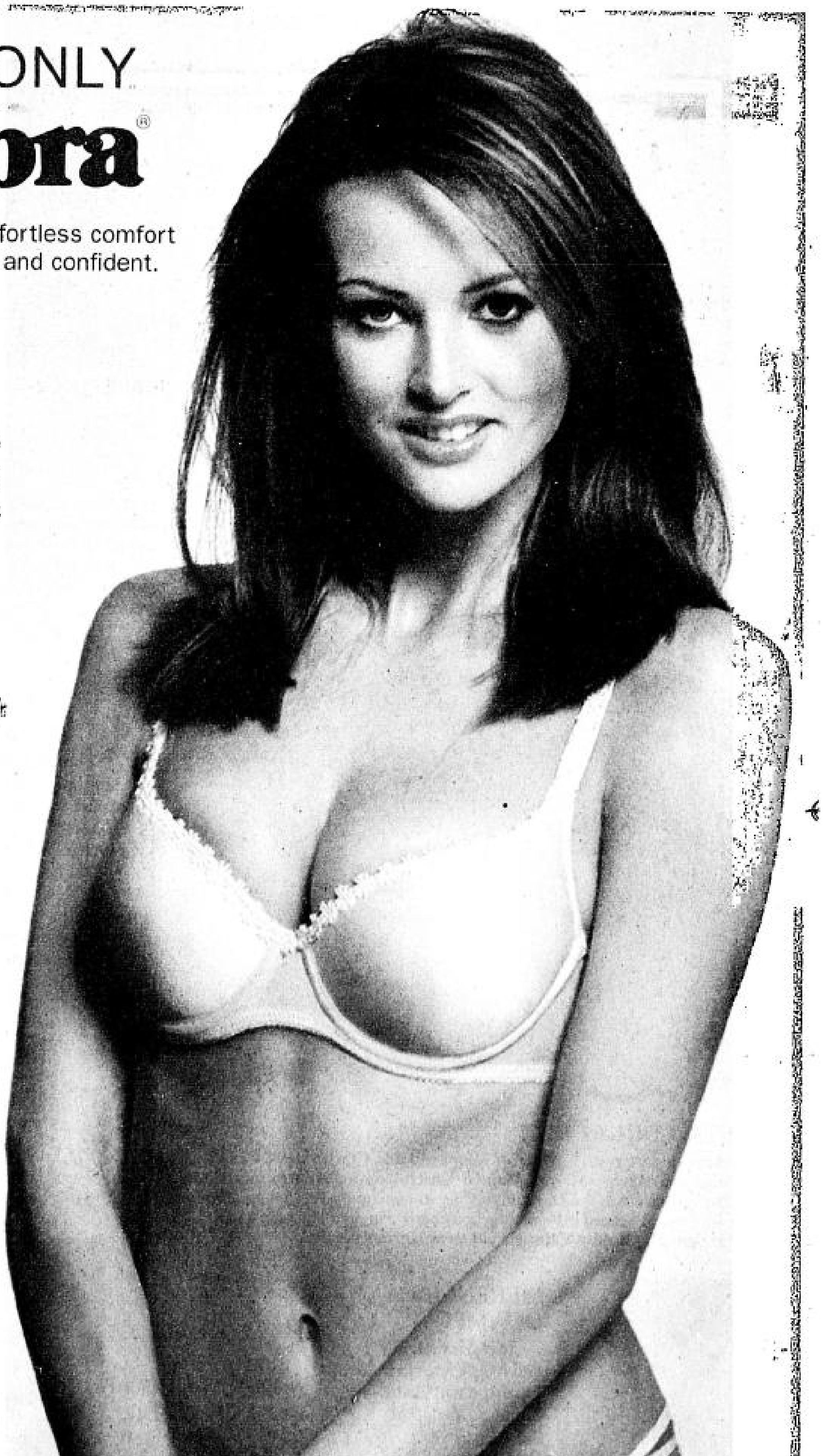
Tech Shine **Lift** Bra
A beautiful 1st Degree lift bra with glistening tech shine sheer straps that support with the illusion of less bra. Wonderfil® lined cups give firm, uplifting support for just the right amount of lift.
Daringly Bare, Midnight
32A, 34A, 36A

2° nd
Padded/ Add-A-Size

Microfiber T-Shirt **Padded** Bra
This 2nd Degree bra is perfect for today's t-shirt fashions. Playful double straps and a gently scooped front. The banded underwire lifts with comfort.
Soft Taupe
32A, 34A

3° rd
Push-Up

Seamless **Push-Up** Bra
Ultimate cleavage enhancement with seamless, sexy styling. The beautiful bra features delicate floral embellishments on the plunging neckline and straps, and non-removable push-up pads to enhance the comfort.
Buff - 32A, 34A
Midnight - 34A, 36A



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DSAP

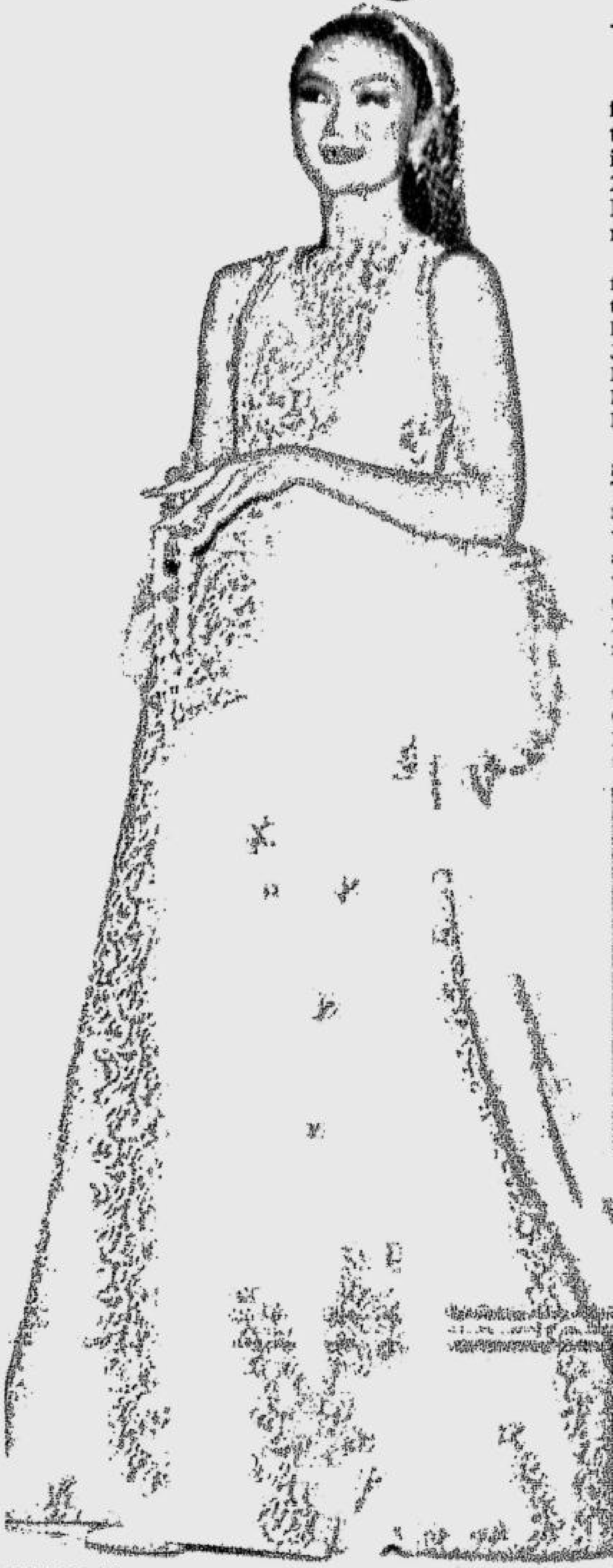
Design 2002 unveiled in fund-raiser

USING colors of birthstones, 11 Quezon City-based fashion designers presented their ideas of holiday wear in the show "Año... Anyo 2002" held recently at the Fiesta Pavilion of the Manila Hotel.

The two-hour extravaganza featured the haute couture collections of designers Rudy Fuentes, Eddie Baddeo, Toby Albrando, Jon Salcedo, Francis Calaquian, Rex D., Edwin Uy, Rollie Graza, Lloyd Arceo, Frederick Alba and Eric Pineda.

In keeping with tradition, bridal gowns were the finale numbers. The designers indulged their fantasies as they reinterpreted the wedding gown. Calaquian sprung a surprise with his retro piece, a wedding *terno* with a semi-beaded train that harked back to the '60s. Baddeo and Pineda presented the most applauded collections.

Proceeds of the show went to the High Hopes Foundation of QC Councilor Wilma Sarino. QC Mayor Feliciano Belmonte graced the affair.


EDDIE Baddeo

RUDY Fuentes

EDDIE Baddeo

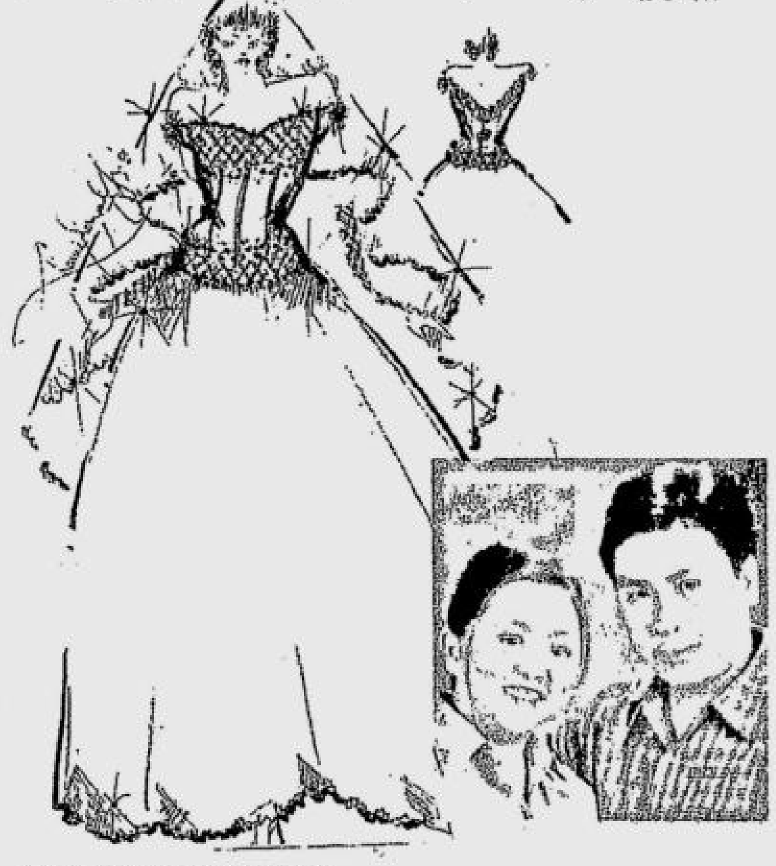
PHOTOS BY ROGER MARGALLO

ERIC Pineda

EDDIE Baddeo

Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple at least one month before the wedding. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.

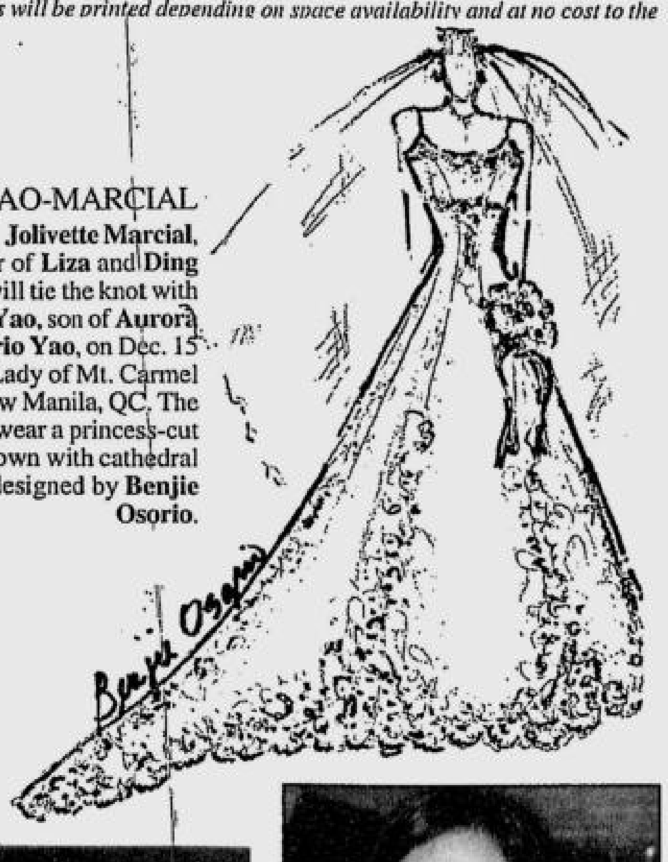


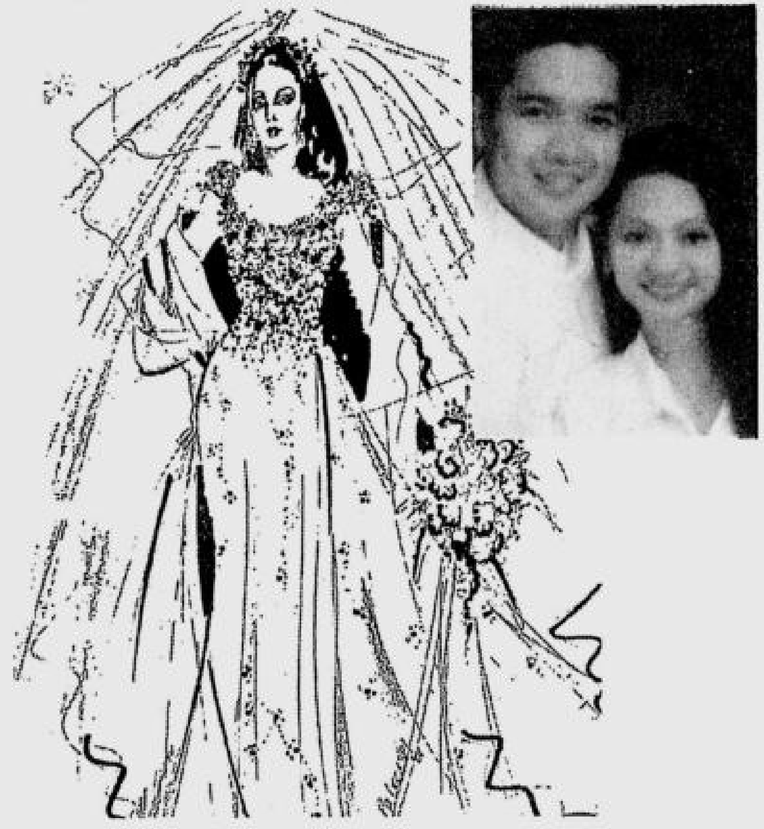
CASTRO-DE LA CRUZ

Arlene de la Cruz, daughter of **Leonardo** and **Clarita de la Cruz**, will exchange marriage vows with **Romeo Castro**, son of **Arturo** and **Lolita Castro**, on Dec. 15 at the Our Lady of the Annunciation Parish Church. The bride will wear a beaded off-shoulder corset gown in ecru shantung and heavy lace, designed by **Bobby Yalung** and **Larry Hernandez Jr.**

YAO-MARCIAL

Jolivette Marcial, daughter of **Liza** and **Ding Marcial**, will tie the knot with **Gilbert Yao**, son of **Aurora** and **Gregorio Yao**, on Dec. 15 at the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine, New Manila, QC. The bride will wear a princess-cut white gown with cathedral trail designed by **Benjie Osorio**.





ALCAZAR-CONCEPCION

Jose Gerardo D. Alcazar, son of **Joselito** and **Ester Alcazar**, and **Marie Yvette C. Concepcion**, daughter of **Inocencio Jr.** and **Marilou Concepcion**, will exchange marriage vows on Dec. 22 at the Archbishop's Palace, Villa San Miguel, Mandaluyong City. The bride will wear a gown by **Manolet P. Legaspi**. Reception will follow at the Greenmeadows Clubhouse.

MERENCILLA-OCAMPO

Joel Merencilla and **Ma. Victoria P. Ocampo** will tie the knot on Dec. 19 at the Most Holy Redeemer Parish Church, Araneta Avenue, QC.

PEÑARUBIA-DELGADO

Jhon Peñarubia, son of engineer **Rodolfo Sr.** and **Lolita S. Peñarubia**, and **Cel Delgado**, daughter of **Ester vda. de Delgado**, will exchange marriage vows on Dec. 14 at the Manila Cathedral.

ARQUIZA DEBUT

Rachel Comin Arquiza, daughter of **Rey** and **Ruby Arquiza**, recently celebrated her 18th birthday at Via Mare, Eastwood City, Libis, QC.

BITO-RICALDE

Dr. **Rodelio C. Bito**, son of **Visitacion B. Camesa Bito** and the late **Rodolfo T. Bito**, will tie the knot with Dr. **Rosario R. Ricalde**, daughter of lawyer **Pelagio T. Ricalde** and the late **Juliana C. Rodriguez-Ricalde**, on Dec. 15 at the San Agustin Church in Intramuros, Manila. Reception will follow at San Agustin Plaza.

The bride will wear a fully embroidered and beaded *piña* gown with a 4-meter train by **Amor Ceblano** and **Gilda Entrada**.

He learns about loving and losing

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I am presently working in the Middle East. I am 28 with no girlfriend and no commitment. But I believe that only God knows what is best for us at the proper time.

When I was still working in Makati in 1997, I received a wrong-number call twice from a lady asking if I knew her friend who was about to get married. I told my officemate that if she called again, I'd court her. She did call again. She told me she comes from one of the rich and famous families in the country. She lives in San Lorenzo Village, which is near my office and boarding house. When I visited her, I found her to be simple, sexy, smart, caring and humble. She gave me wonderful advice and inspiration.

I fell in love with her, but since I was just an ordinary employee and a province boy, I thought she would ignore me. But she told me to forget our gap and focus on our relationship instead. We even went to my province. I introduced her to my family and they liked her because of her simplicity and humility. I also hoped that I'd be introduced to her parents, but she said she had to find the proper time, and she always avoided the topic afterward. Much later, she stopped talking to me. I realized the magic was gone; she broke her promises to my family and friends.

During the fading stage of our relationship, I met Josie at the wedding of my officemate. She had a good job, and she knew I had a girlfriend. One time, I called my girlfriend to ask her out to a movie. Her answer shocked me. She told me to ask anyone on the street. After our conversation, Josie called to ask how my day was. That started a warm relationship. We became more than friends but less than lovers.

I even accompanied her to her home in Marikina and was introduced to her family. Josie said that if we were meant for each other, destiny would find its way. I have great respect for her.

I've always prayed for an opportunity to work in a place where I could relax, save money and help my family. And my prayer was answered when I was offered to work in the Middle East. Here, work is simple and systematic; no pollution, no vices and crimes. It took only three weeks to complete my papers. I kept it a secret and told my family and friends only when I was about to leave the next day. Hours before my departure, I saw my ex-girlfriend in a shopping mall with a male companion. From here, I sent her a letter thanking her for the wonderful things she shared with me. She is now married.

Thank you for reading this letter. More power.

GARTER BOY

You have been through a lot of joys and disappointments, but you have remained cool. Thank the Lord for your blessings. He answered your prayer by giving you a better work opportunity, so live each day to the fullest and offer it to Him.

Josie was correct. If you are meant for each other, it will come to pass. If not, there are other roads ahead. And thank you for your letter, with the Saudi Arabian stamps. I have a granddaughter who collects stamps. And since you gave me your full address, readers who may want to write to you can send their letters properly stamped, enclosed in their letter to me.

He wants to be a butcher

MAY I ask for your help? During the time of Ferdinand Marcos, Pura Madlansacay, a research scientist at the Bureau of Animal Industry, wrote a booklet on "Animal Product Utilization (Meat Processing)." It was very simple and understandable. How can I get a copy? I am a meat vendor at the Iloilo Central Market and would like to be a butcher. Thank you and God bless.

VALENTIN C. ESLITA

The Bureau of Animal Industry may still have that copy, but they may even have more updates now. I suggest you write to Lourdes Rivera, head of the Animal Product Development Center Project, and director of the Public Information Technology Promotion Services. Enclose postage stamps for what may be sent to you. The address of the Bureau of Animal Industry: BAI Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

A Royal Birth
at the Shang

Hear Ye! A King is born at the Shang. Come, as we celebrate in majestic style and splendor:

HANDOG SA PANGINOONG HARI
Carols by the Hangad Choir,
November 30 (5 to 6 pm, Grand Atrium, Level 1), and December 7 (7 to 8 pm, Grand Atrium, Level 1)

A KING'S BIRTH
A live Belen presentation by Trumpets with the Mandaluyong Children's Chorus.
December 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 29, 30, and January 5 and 6, 2002 (all at 6 to 7 pm, Grand Atrium, Level 1)

PAGTATANGHAL PARA SA HARI
Students from the Philippine High School for the Arts perform Christmas Songs and instrumental numbers.
December 8 (4 to 5 pm, Grand Atrium, Level 1)

A ROYAL SERENADE
Carols by the Philippine Opera Company.
December 14 and 21 (both at 5 to 6 pm, Grand Atrium, Level 1)

A KING'S NIGHT
A concert with Robert Seña, Ugoy-Ugoy Band and Gigi Valmores.
December 14 (7:30 to 9 pm, Grand Atrium, Level 1)

ONCE UPON A ROYAL BIRTH
Storytelling and coloring contest, brought to you by Big & Small Co., Sacred Heart School, and Alitaptap Storytellers Club.
December 15 and 22 (both at 10 am to 12 nn, Grand Atrium, Level 1)

SIMBANG GABI
December 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22 (8 to 9 pm, Level 3), and December 23 (9 to 10 pm, Level 3)

A GIFT OF CHRISTMAS
Performed by the Effie Nañas School of Classical Ballet.
December 16 (4 to 6 pm, Grand Atrium, Level 1)

A ROYAL HYMN
Carols by the Dynamic Youth Chorale.
December 19 (5 to 6 pm, Level 3), and December 28 (5 to 6 pm, Grand Atrium, Level 1)

SINILANG NA!: A CHRISTMAS CONCERT
Performed by the Makiling Ensemble.
December 19 (6 to 7 pm, Grand Atrium, Level 1)

TRIBUTE TO THE KING
Nolyn Cabahug sings with a 35-piece orchestra and the Chiang Kai Shek Children's Choir.
December 23 (7 to 8 pm, Grand Atrium, Level 1)

HOLIDAY RHYTHMS
Musical prelude to the New Year by Jovianney Emmanuel Cruz and friends.
December 29 (4 to 5 pm, Grand Atrium, Level 1)

HOLIDAY MALL HOURS:
November 30 to December 20 - 10 am to 10 pm
December 21 to 23 - 10 am to 12 mn
December 24 - 10 am to 8 pm
December 25 - mall is closed
December 26 to December 30 - 10 am to 9 pm
December 31 - 10 am to 7 pm
January 1, 2002 - mall is closed

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OR
DIGITAL DREAM SHOWCASE
DCR-TRV30 Sony Video Camera • Sony Digital Still Camera Compaq iPAQ • Sony PlayStation II and Nokia 9210 Or Cash!

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Promo Mechanics for SMART Buddy Subscribers:

1. All active SMART Buddy (pre-paid) subscribers in good standing are eligible to participate.
2. To join, SMART Buddy subscribers must register via text. To register, key in CHRISTMAS <name>/<address>/<region> and send to 211.
   Region codes: Luzon-LZ, Visayas-VS, Mindanao-MN, Metro Manila-MM
   Subscribers will be charged P2.50 per message sent.
3. The cellular phone number of SMART Buddy subscribers will serve as their raffle entry. There can only be one registered name per cellular phone number. Once a subscriber joins, no one else will be allowed to register using the same cellular phone number unless he quits the promo. In the event that the winning cellular phone number was registered under two users within the same month of the promo duration, the current registered name will be recognized. However, one person can register several cellular phone numbers at one time.
4. All registered participants can earn raffle entries in three easy ways:

•Via Smart Buddy Reloads

• Every reload entitles the subscriber to earn raffle entries. The number of raffle entries earned is determined by the cumulative value of reloads at the end of each month as illustrated below:

CUMULATIVE RELOAD VALUE PER SUBSCRIBER (PER MONTH)	RAFFLE ENTRY(IES)
₱300	1
₱500	5
₱800	12
₱1,000	20
every ₱300 beyond the 1st ₱1,000	5

*Note: Pre-paid reloading via Call & Text Card, SMART Money and SMART Mobile Banking is entitled to raffle entries. Raffle entries earned through reloads will be credited after the end of each month (e.g. all entries earned for November will be reflected in a subscriber's raffle entry balance by December 1 only).

•Via Activation

•Each new SMART Buddy SIM card activation during the promo period entitles the subscriber to one (1) entry. The raffle entry earned will be credited at the end of the month.

•All activations for the duration of the promo period will be awarded raffle entries for as long as the subscriber has duly registered for the promo.

•Via SMART IDD

•Every IDD call that reaches a minimum of three (3) minutes in duration is entitled to 3 entries.

5. To view the number of raffle entries earned, key in CHRISTMAS and send to 211.
   Rate per CHRISTMAS RAFFLE INQUIRY is ₱2.50.
6. All entries earned for a particular month will be included in the monthly draw for the same period only. However, all entries not drawn are still qualified for the grand draw on January 11, 2002.
7. The participant can also opt to quit from the promo. To quit, key in CHRISTMAS QUIT and send it to 211. To register the number under a different name, the participant should repeat the registration steps. All valid entries made prior to quitting will still be included in the monthly and grand draw under the registered name.
   Rate for CHRISTMAS QUIT is ₱2.50

Promo Mechanics for SMART GOLD Subscribers:

1. Eligible individual or corporate SMART Gold (post-paid) subscribers can participate in the 2nd preliminary draw and grand draw following their billing cycles.
2. SMART Gold individual, corporate and government subscribers need not register, as they will be automatically included in the promo.
3. If a subscription is under a corporate or government account, in case it is drawn, the prize will be given to the corporate or government account.
4. The cellular phone number will serve as the raffle entry.
5. All registered participants can earn raffle entries in three easy ways:

•Via Monthly Service Fee

- A SMART Gold subscriber exceeding a prescribed minimum monthly billing requirement earns him/her raffle entries.
- For every ₱250 in excess of the minimum billing requirement of each plan, a Gold subscriber earns additional 5 raffle entries.

GOLD PLAN (current)	GOLD PLAN (old)	MINIMUM MONTHLY BILLING	RAFFLE ENTRY
300 (Corporate)	40	₱1,000	20
600	80	₱1,500	30
1,200	120 & 160	₱2,500	50
1,800	200 & 500	₱3,000	60
3,000	750	₱4,500	90
4,000	1,000	₱6,000	120

- For example, a Gold subscriber under Plan 600 has a billing of ₱2,500 he/she will earn a total of 50 raffle entries,

Plan	Minimum Monthly Billing Req.	Raffle Entry
Plan 600	₱1,500	30+20 = 50 raffle entries

Excess of ₱1,000 / 250 x 5 = 20

• Via Activation

•Each SMART Gold activation entitles the subscriber to one (1) entry.

•Via SMART IDD

• Every IDD call that reaches a minimum of three (3) minutes in duration is entitled to 3 raffle entries.

6. To view the number of raffle entries that you have earned, key in CHRISTMAS, and send to 211. For SMART Gold, balances will be updated at the end of the billing cycle.
   Rate per CHRISTMAS RAFFLE INQUIRY is ₱2.50.

GENERAL Promo Mechanics for SMART Buddy and SMART Gold Subscribers:

1. The draw dates and prizes are as follows:

DRAW DATES	PERIOD COVERED	PRIZES
Dec. 5, 2001 (For SMART Buddy Only)	Nov. 1 -30, 2001 (For SMART Buddy Only)	• Five (5) winners who can choose from three (3) showcases • Winners will be distributed geographically as follows: 1 winner each from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao; and 2 winners from Metro Manila
Jan. 10, 2002 (For SMART Buddy and SMART Gold)	Dec. 1-31, 2001 (For SMART Buddy and SMART Gold)	• Ten (10) winners who can choose from three (3) showcases • Winners will be distributed geographically as follows: 2 winners each from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao; and 4 winners from Metro Manila
GRAND DRAW: Jan. 11, 2002	Nov. 1, 2001 – December 31, 2001	One (1) GRAND PRIZE WINNER OF P2,000,000 IN CASH – TAX-FREE

Showcase 1: Travel/Shopping for 5 persons in Bangkok or Hong Kong plus US$2,000 pocket money. This package includes 4 days and 3 nights accommodation plus round-trip airfare.

Showcase 2: Digital Dream Showcase (Nokia 9210, DCR-TRV30 Sony Video Camera, Sony Digital Still Camera, Compaq IPAQ and Sony Play Station II)

Showcase 3: Home Theater Showcase Sony Wega 48" (121.92cm) Projection TV and Pioneer HTD1 Home Theater System which includes 5-disc DVD/CD changer, satellite speakers, center speaker and an active subwoofer)

2. All the prizes are TAX-FREE. If a showcase winner wants to convert his/her prize to cash, they will be given ₱175,000.00.
3. A winner may only win once every raffle draw.
4. The promo is from November 21 to December 31, 2001. All activations, reloads and IDD calls made since Nov. 1, 2001 are included in the promo.
5. Winners shall be notified thru the following means;
   a. Text Message.
   b. Registered Mail
6. Winners within Metro Manila may claim their prizes at the SMART Tower, 6799 Ayala Ave., Makati City. Provincial winners can claim their prizes at the nearest SMART office indicated in the register mail.
7. Winners must present their active SMART GSM celfone and SIM card, valid I.D. with photo and registered mail when claiming their prizes.
8. All employees of SMART Communications, Inc., Pilipino Telephone Corporation, and their advertising agencies and relatives up to the 2nd degree of affinity or consanguinity are automatically disqualified from the promo.
9. The raffle will be held at the 27/F, SMART Tower, 6799 Ayala Ave., Makati City. Draws will be held at 12NN on December 5, January 10 and January 11.
10. Prizes should be claimed within 60 days from notification of winners.

*Actual prizes may vary from the ones shown.

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Buddy

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1939, Series of 2001.

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

Scape Scape

Dazed and sated in Shanghai

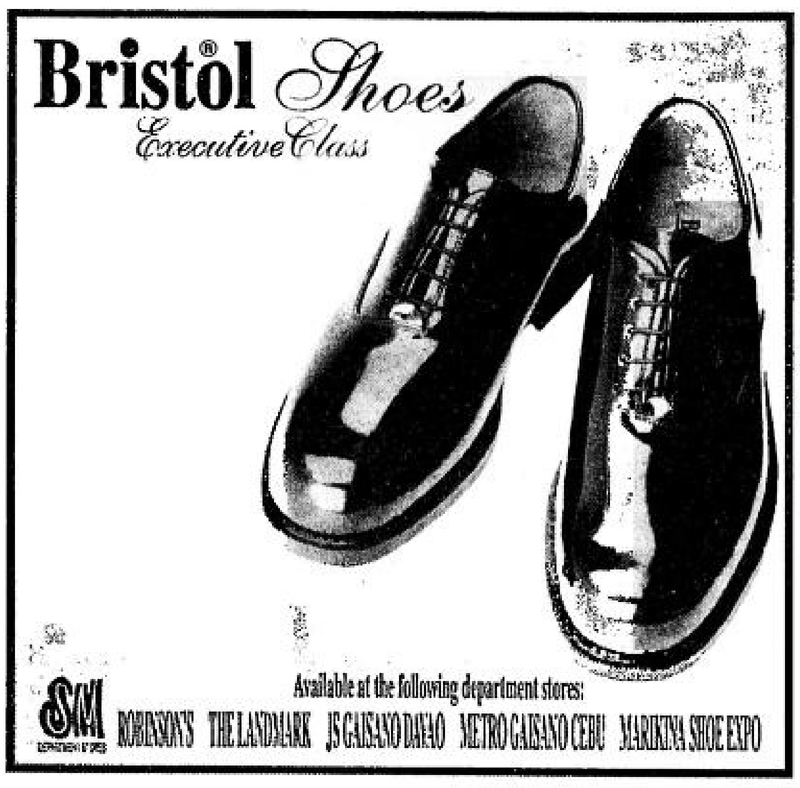
SHANGHAI NOON. Main avenue of Shanghai Old Town

Want to have a fill of 'tiangge'? Get ready for Shanghai

By Cathy Babao Guballa

TWO things render the first-time visitor sleepless in Shanghai—the scintillating sights and the spectacular shopping. Leaving sunny Manila on a warm December Thursday morning, one arrives at the massive and state-of-the-art Pudong International Airport amid a cool but comfortable 12-degree Shanghai weather after a three-hour Philippine Airlines flight. Together with a group of travel agents and staff from the PAL sales office in Manila, Panda Travel Services, headed by its general manager, Mr. Oscar Chong,

DAZED/p.E2



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Maestro REGALADO JOSE, Guest Conductor

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Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto in B-flat minor
Ravel Sonata for Violin and Piano

Dec. 18, 2001 (Tue.) 7:30 pm
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Leon Guinto St., Manila

In cooperation with
National Philharmonic Society MANILA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA II FOUNDATION, INC. St. Scholastica's College

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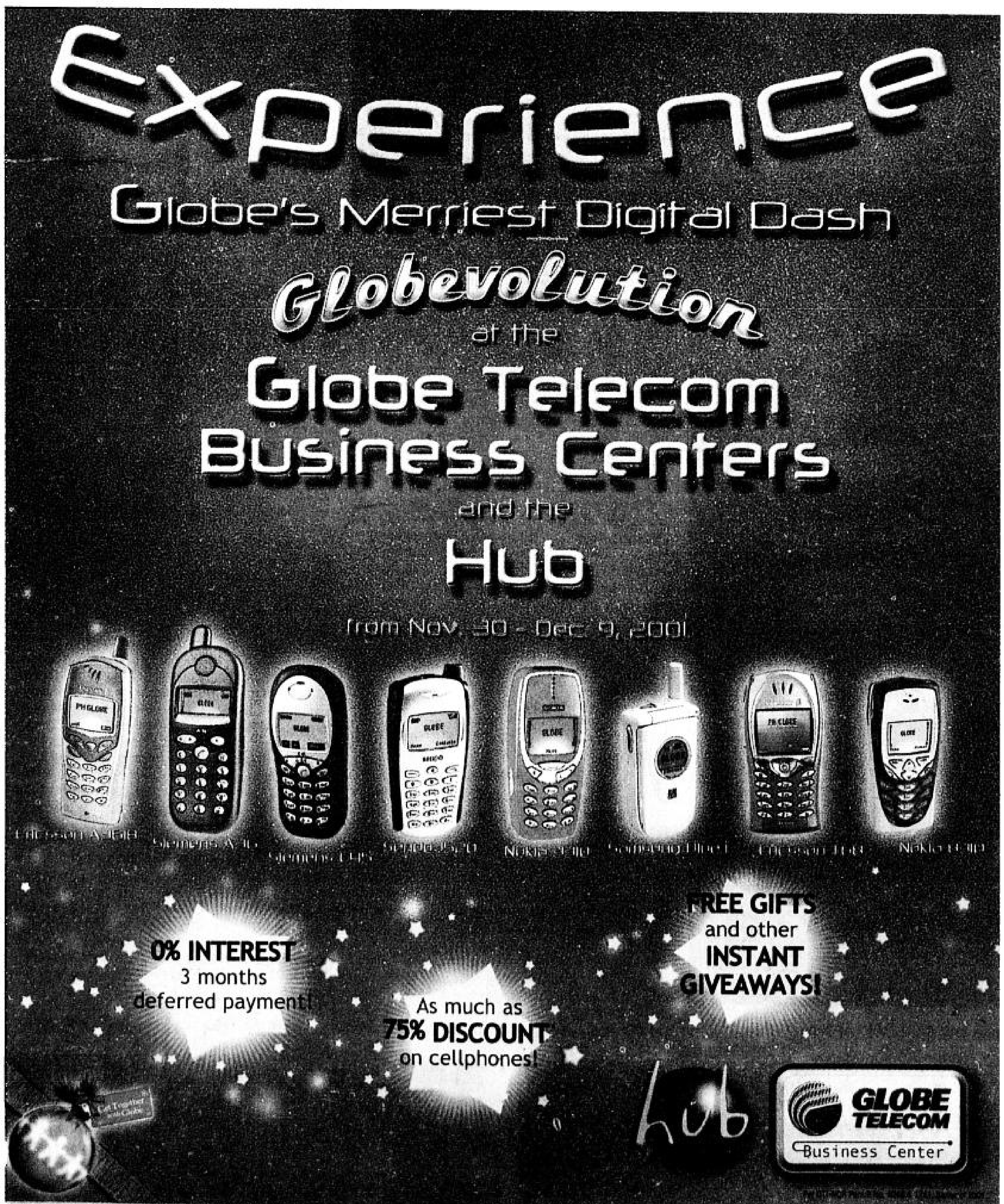

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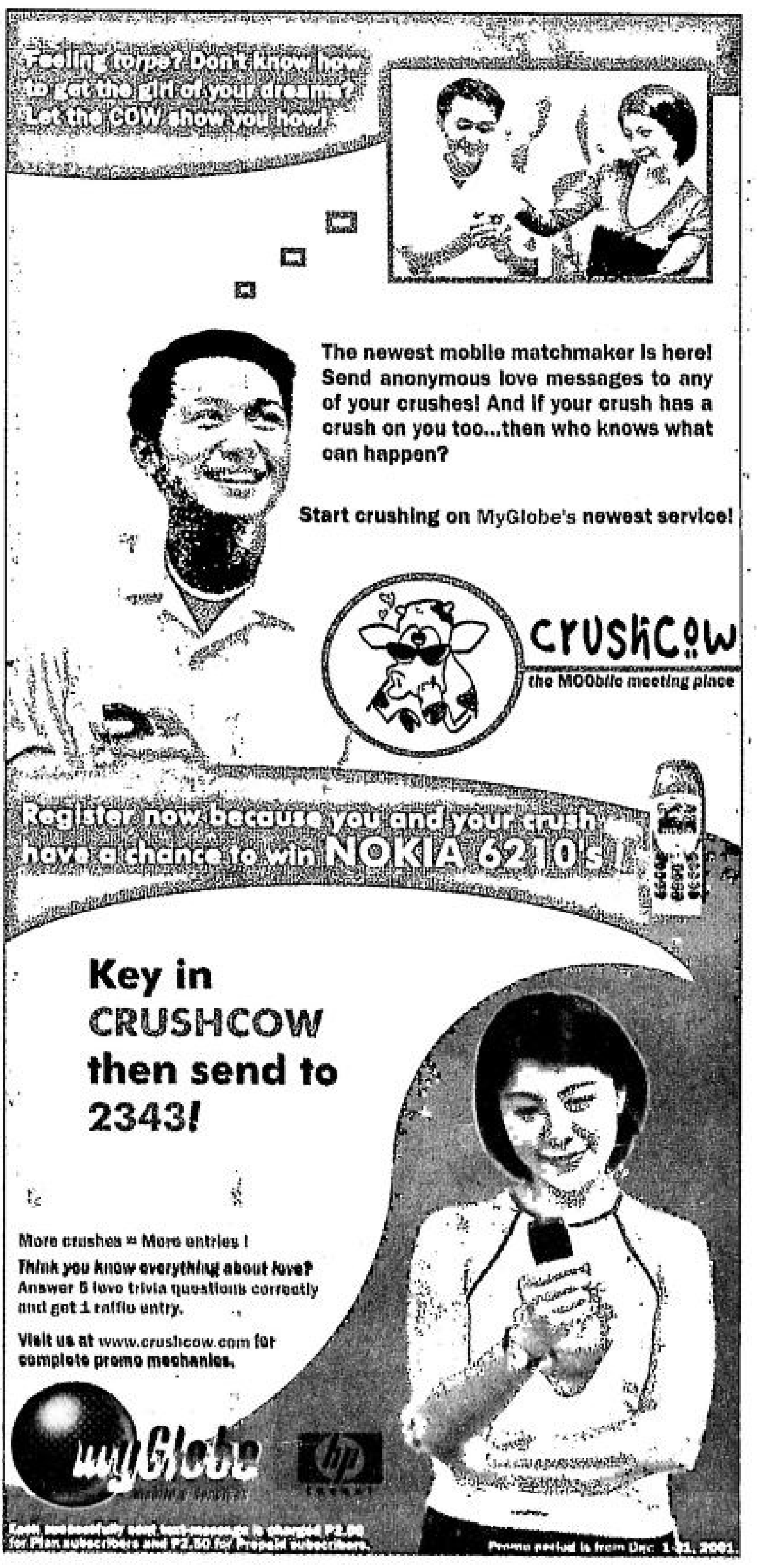

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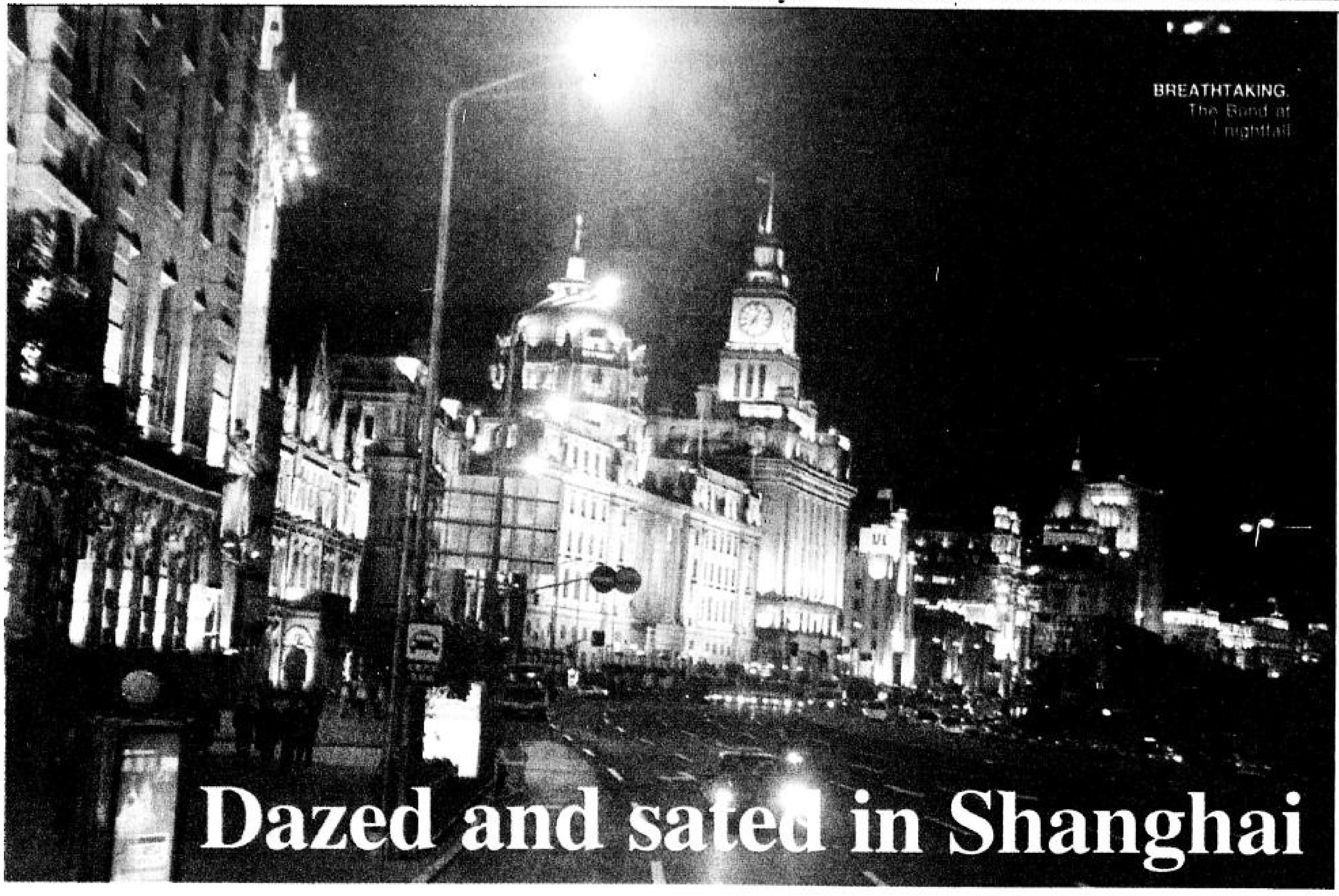


BREATHTAKING. The Bund at nightfall

Dazed and sated in Shanghai

(From page E1)

played host to 30 of us over the next three days, showing the best that Shanghai has to offer.

With the exception of publicist Jingjing Romero who had visited the city some 30 years ago, no one in the group had been to Shanghai before. However, Jingjing's memories were of a Shanghai during the height of Mao's power, of a city that had its own charm, but like the rest of China—weary and dreary, garbed in gray and black with none of the creature comforts that the rest of the world knew.

The Shanghai of today bustles with great activity and growth. Although it retains its old-world charm in various sections throughout the city that were once upon a time either American, French or British concessions, today it is a microcosm of the world's greatest cities. As one goes through China's "gateway to the world" one can find slices of Paris, London, New York and Hong Kong in its various enclaves.

Shanghai, once one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the world, is already on the verge of returning to its previous, glorious past. Its gaiety and style had earned it the moniker "Paris of the Orient." In the past, Europeans kept Chinese people out of their own parks, clubs and homes. In a park close to the Bund, which is the most beautiful avenue in Shanghai, there once stood a sign "Dogs and Chinese not allowed." Today it is a promenade that families and tourists visit in the day; in the evening, it is transformed into a lover's lane. It is also where a bronze statue of Chairman Mao holds center stage.

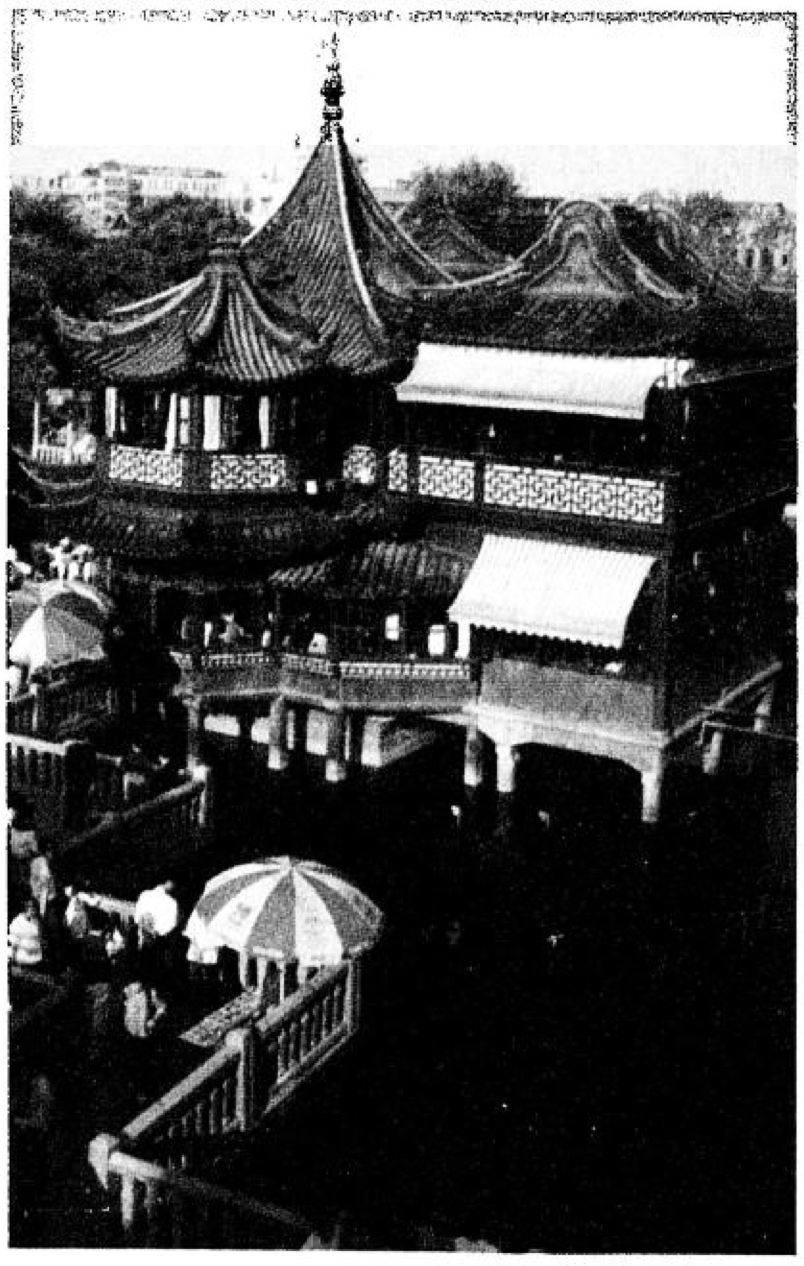
Shanghai is bounded on the east by the Huangpu River, a tributary of which the Suzhou creek crosses from east to west. The Bund, or Zhongshan Dong Yi Lu in Chinese, curves along the western bank of the Huangpu. One side gives the visitor an impressive view of the high buildings, most prominent of which is the Orient Pearl T.V. Tower that is the tallest in Asia. Turning to the other side will give the visitor a view of the fabulous architecture, some of the world's best that line the avenue. In the evening, the sight itself is so awesome that if you must see only one place in Shanghai, it has to be the Bund at nightfall when all the buildings are magnificently illuminated, it simply takes your breath away.

Charm

The French concession area also possess a charm all its own. Its sycamore tree-lined streets are terribly quaint as the villas that remind one of a Hollywood back lot. Interestingly, our tour guide, Elaine, told us that these beautiful homes were once inhabited by Shanghai's top movie stars. But when Communism overtook Shanghai in 1949, the government sequestered them all. Thus, one could easily find two or three families sharing one house, one bath during that period.

Shanghai's charm however, does not only lie in its old-world architecture but in its culture as well. The Old Town (Nanshi) is the oldest inhabited part of Shanghai and the only one untouched by foreign invasion. The Old Town has a mysterious air that reminds of, perhaps past adventures that took place here. Yu Garden (Yu Yuan) is a fully restored classical Chinese garden which, according to the book "Shanghai," is a microcosm of a skillful gardener's talents. Combining the qualities of painter, poet, architect and sculptor, the garden contains over 30 pavilions on a 2-hectare property where there is a labyrinth of stairs, corridors and pathways. A gingko tree that is reputed to be 400 years old stands in front of the Ten Thousand Flowers Pavilion.

SYCAMORE trees line the French concession area.



THE HUXINTING Teahouse and the Bridge of Nine Turnings

At the entrance to the Yu Yuan gardens, standing in the middle of a rectangular pool is the Huxinting Teahouse believed by Europeans to be the original teahouse pictured on "willow pattern" plates. It is a five-sided teahouse and one has to go through the Bridge of Nine Turnings (zigzagged because they say that evil spirits cannot turn corners) before you can reach it. The teahouse is full all day long and is one of the most frequently photographed spots in the complex. Britain's Queen Elizabeth II stopped here for tea during a visit to Shanghai several years back.

The shopping expedition begins in the specialty stores that line the old town. Here one can find cheongsams of every size and color, antiques in brass, ivory, jade at the most fabulous prices. Maggie of PAL bought an antique abacus made of jade for something like $10. Silk cheongsams range in price from a low of $15 to $35 depending on your talent to haggle. There are bags, fans, tissue holders, silk slippers ($4) and anything else Chinese your heart desires. The sales staff are quite friendly and very accommodating, but you really must haggle. Filipinos are quite adept at this and it was quite funny to see how the vendors' jaws would drop when we haggled for the goods. "*Hindi pa sanay sa* Pinoy," one member of our group quipped.

Shopper's haven

If haggling is not your thing (rare in a Pinoy!), the department stores on Nanjing Lu, which is the busiest of Shanghai's streets (10 km long), is a shopper's haven as well. Shanghai is in the midst of a retail revolution and this is quite evident in its terribly well-stocked stores. During our visit, winter wear was the vogue and so we had a heyday with jackets, overcoats, sweaters and trench coats for use to travel to cold climes. A friend bought a well-tailored, very stylish wool overcoat for $35 while I bought a lovely, lined trench coat for, believe it or not, $12! One could only imagine what these stores will have stocked in the summer. Shanghai Fashion has the best collection of clothing on Nanjing Lu while Shanghai First on the corner of Nanjing Dong Lu and Xizang Zhong Lu is a six-story department store crammed with high-quality domestic goods and serves 150,000 shoppers a day. Sorry, no bargaining here, folks, but the prices, which are controlled by the government, are certainly reasonable.

CHAIRMAN Mao lords it over a park that was once prohibited to Chinese.

However, the mecca of all shopping destinations in Shanghai is the Xiang Yang Fashion and Gift Market. It is a veritable treasure trove of bargains. This is the Shanghai version of our local *tiangge* and is set up much like a Divisoria with makeshift stalls covered by umbrellas or plastic canopies. Much like the stores on Nanjing Road, the bulk of goods sold at this time of the year is concentrated mainly on winter wear. A *viajera's* haven, Xiang Yang has copycats of every label. One can hardly tell the difference. A companion had an original Ferragamo bag which, if placed side by side with its $15 counterpart, we couldn't tell apart! Workmanship is excellent and the prices—you can forget Hong Kong. Try this—Gucci satchels for $10, Bally carry-ons for $20, Gucci handbags for $5 to $20, again depending on your bargaining savvy. If bags don't catch your fancy, head for the pashminas. This is pashmina haven! Sold in all colors of the rainbow plus more, the prices vary from $2/pashmina to a high of $10 for the super thick, embroidered kind. Watches abound here, too, but aren't on display for public consumption. The vendors try to catch your eye and whisper, "You want to buy Rolex? Longines? Gucci? Omega?" For as low as $4 (for the not-so-good kind) to a high of $20 for the watch of your dreams. Again, they are excellent-looking timepieces. If you carry them with panache, even the most discriminating eye won't be able to tell the difference. There is also, unfortunately, an underground DVD market here. Can you believe DVD's for $3/piece?

Best buys

Right now, the best buys are the jackets—Hilfiger-looking originals for $15 to $18, and Esprit for $12 to $15. If you have an Imeldific fetish for bags, this is the place to go to. The best place to buy them are at B27 owned by Xia Yu Juan—the best quality in the market. Li Ru Hua's sweater stall at B-094 has a good collection plus a kind and accommodating staff. The sisters from Mongolia who sell pashminas beside her shop have them in all colors and they sell them at excellent prices, too.

The market is very clean, but you need to canvass and bargain until you're blue. In bargaining, you have to hold your ground and immediately cut the price in half. My companions bought a Gucci carry-on for $15 that was originally priced at $35. See what I mean? Show some disinterest and that will drag the price down a few more notches.

Shopped out and too tired for sightseeing? You can hie back to the comforts of your hotel that abound in Shanghai—from three to five star. You can choose any hotel depending on the purpose of your trip. Steep yourself in culture and antiques, pick one close to Yu Yuan. Feel like scouring the many department stores? Pick one close to Nanjing Road or at the Pudong Central business district (the Pudong Intercontinental is fantastic!). It's easy to get around provided you have your destination written in Chinese by the concierge at your hotel. Plus, Shanghai has an efficient subway system, too. We were billeted at the Hua Ting (Shanghai's name in Chinese) Hotel which is right beside the subway and walking distance to the malls. The best part about this hotel was that its executive chef Domingo Ramos is a hundred-percent Pinoy from Pangasinan. Chef Domeng prepared *adobo* for us and it was part of the breakfast buffet for two days! Yes, there's a little bit of home that can be found in Shanghai, too.

Panda Travel Services Inc. offers the best tour packages to Shanghai via Philippine Airlines which flies to Shanghai five times a week. A four-day, three-night package costs something like $590/person. Call 242-2585 for more information.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

XIANG YANG FASHION & GIFT M

***TIANGGE* HAVEN.** Entrance to Xiang Yang Fashion and Gift Market

BONDING IN CHINA. Members of the Panda Travel—PAL Familiarization Tour

PROMENADE by The Bund

Military observes tradition for Our Lady

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

MEMBERS of the Armed Forces of the Philippines marched slowly to the sound of bugle drums in front of the Manila Cathedral on Dec. 2, leading the grand Marian procession to honor Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception. In keeping with tradition that began during Spanish times, the Virgin Mary was honored once again by the military, which has the role of peacekeeper and protector of the people.

Led by the Grand Marshal, Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan, Commanding General of Civil Relations, AFP, the procession featured a display of flags bearing the different colors of the Armed Forces that included the Philippine Army, Philippine Navy and the Philippine Air Force. The Philippine Army Band played the procession march tune, "Dios de Salve Maria."

Also on display were the flags of the Intramuros Administration and the Cofradia de la Inmaculada Concepcion, organizers of the procession. These were followed by the flag of the Virgin, the papal flag and flags of the different universities and colleges.

Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan of Tuguegarao led the prayers at the start of the procession. An hour before, Bishop Ruben Profugo of Quezon officiated in the Concelebrated Mass at the Manila Cathedral.

The dancing devotees of 'Turumba'

At least 60 images of the Blessed Virgin under her many titles were paraded in resplendent *carrozas*. What pleased the people watching the procession were the devotees of Nuestra Señora de Dolores de Turumba, patroness of Pakil, Laguna. It seemed like the whole town was there led by its parish priest. There must have been hundreds of devotees dancing in front of and behind the image. What great devotion the people have for their patroness.

Dancing for a baby

The parishioners of San Pascual Baylon Church in Obando, Bulacan came with the image of Nuestra Señora de Salambao. It is said that when a woman cannot conceive easily, she should go to Obando and dance before the Virgin of Salambao.

Legend has it that the image of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception was found by two brothers in their *salambao* on June 19, 1763. Juan and Julian de la Cruz found the image while disentangling their *salambao* in Binoangan, Tambobong. The image was brought to the church and is known as Our Lady of Salambao.

Our Lady of the Poor

The caretakers of the image of Our Lady of the Poor, patroness of Banneaux, Belgium, in the Philippines are the Sisters of Mary whose convent and school are in Sta. Mesa, Manila.

With the help of a devotee, Mila Dolores, the nuns were able to participate in the procession at the last minute. Female students of the school, who were dressed in blue, joined the procession.

Mila told me the school has 4,000 students studying for free with the help of an international funding agency. The boys' school, with 2,000 students, is in Tagaytay and two other schools in Cebu. Our Lady of the Poor is making sure that the schools have generous benefactors to provide for their needs.

Our Lady of Piat at Malate

Devotees of Our Lady of Piat in Manila joined her *carroza* led by the wife of the Cagayan governor, Inday Lara. One devotee who impresses me very much is Dr. Carolina Prada of the Univerity of Santo Tomas faculty and professor at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines graduate school. Despite her difficulty in walking due to arthritis she was still able to join the procession.

While the Virgin of Piat was in Malate Church, she attended the 8 a.m. Mass every day. Fr. Jojo Umandap said the Masses. The Virgin will be brought to the airport today after the 4 p.m. Mass and flown to Tuguegarao tomorrow morning. Those who want her help can still see her today before 4 p.m. Those who want *estampitas* can write to me. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Marian exhibit in Marikina

The dream of Tony Trinidad, formerly of the Department of Tourism, to become *hermano* of the Alay Kay Maria Foundation exhibit and procession, came true this year. With Doris Sto. Domingo as *hermana*, the exhibit of different images at the second floor of the Kapitan Moy Sentrong Pangkultura ng Marikina opened on Nov. 26. The Cofradia de la Inmaculada Concepcion gave full support with the presence of its members.

The parish in Marikina City, whose mayor is Marides Fernando, is dedicated to Our Lady of the Abandoned. The church began as *nipa* and bamboo in Chorillo Barangka in 1572 under the Augustinians. When Fr. Jesus de la Pena was parish priest, the first Mass was celebrated on April 16, 1630.

The present church, which is made of stone, was built in 1687. The Philippine-American War and World War II destroyed the church. There was a massive restoration in 1951 with the help of the community and the religious organizations.

The present parish priest is Msgr. Arnel Lagarejos. The grand procession of images took place at 4 p.m. yesterday, feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Golden jubilee

Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Guadalupe Nuevo, Makati is celebrating the Golden Jubilee on Dec. 12. Bishop Lucilo Quiambao of Legazpi City will officiate the concelebrated Mass at 12:15 p.m. The blessing of the sick, disabled and elderly people will take place at 3 p.m.

A procession of pregnant women is the parish's unique way of marking Our Lady's feast day. It will be recalled that the image of the Virgin as patroness of Guadalupe, Mexico shows her as infanticipating with her belly slightly swelling.

Bishop Antonio Tobias will say the Mass at 5 p.m. The nine-day novena to the Virgin is being held at 5:30 p.m. everyday until Dec. 11 followed by Mass at 6:30 p.m. Msgr. Salvador Jose is the parish priest. Tony Adriano will decorate the altar,

Marian exhibit in San Pedro

The San Pedro Apostol Parish in San Pedro, Laguna is holding a Marian exhibit with Cenis Sarmiento as chair. Helping him is Toti Almeida, pastoral council president. Fr. Luis Tolentino is the parish priest. The exhibit is open to the public.

Book launched

The Santa Maria della Strada Parish in Loyola Heights, QC launched its book, "The Living Church," last night at the church garden. Msgr. Patricio Lim, parish priest, made the book possible with the help of many people.

Produced under the supervision of Reyes Publishing and printed in Hong Kong in full color, The Living Church was developed by writers Mimi Katigbak de Jesus and Marla Yotoko Chorengel, with personal notes from Father Pat Lim. Book designer was Noli C. Galang and photographs came from Noli Yamsuan and Leo Ubongen Jr. The book is available at the parish office on Katipunan Avenue (call Baba Ora'a at 929-7790), at P650 per copy.

Tappistine Monastery makes cards

I met two Trappistine nuns at Cafe Juansoy one lunchtime talking with Margie Macasaet Barro. I found out that they make and design all kinds of cards. The convent is in Landan, Polomolok, South Cotabato.

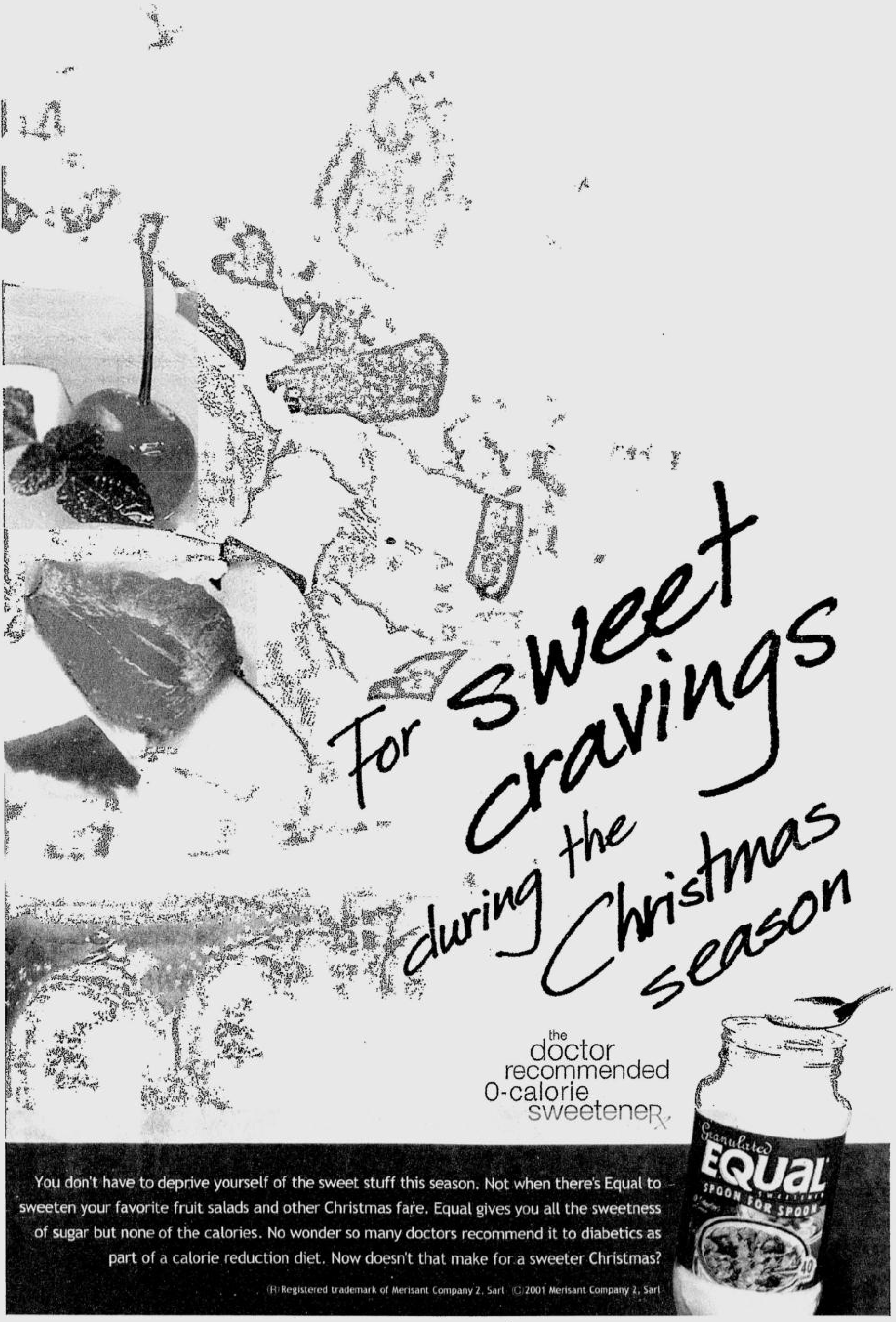
In addition to cards, the nuns also bake cookies, which are being sold at Café Juansoy on United Nations Avenue corner Cortada Street. Although the nuns try to be self-sufficient, it is sometimes very hard. We could help by buying their cookies or ordering cards. Call Café Juansoy at 484-1197 or write Sr. Anna de Simoni at Our Lady of Mt. Matutum Trappistine Monastery in Landan, Polomolok 9504, South Cotabato to order.

My column now out on Sundays

Starting Dec. 2, my column now comes out every Sunday. Thanks to Virma Genuino for telling me that my column has made a difference in her life. And to all the other readers who have kept faith with me all these years. God bless you all.

Can Erlinda Bala please beep me her telephone number or address?

HERMANO Mayor Oscar Violago (third from left) and family poses with Imelda Cojuangco.



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T'N'T Trends & Trendings

The 'outing' of Hitler

BY ANTON SAN DIEGO

MUST-GO-TO Café—When Page One opened this year, it blew the competition away. Books were no longer stacked almost mindlessly next to notebooks, crayons, and school and office supplies in shelves with garish white lighting overhead. It actually put us at par with other Asian cities with its international flair, as well as the books it offered. Not content to rest on their laurels, Page One's owners just opened a café inside the store called Press.

I had *merienda* there the other day and they had really scrumptious cakes and (the true test for me) good coffee! The interior, which is like past meets present, is intimate, cozy and hip. They have vitra chairs and pendant lamps alongside original lithographs by Spanish painter **Antoni Tapies**. The café is perfect for those who would like to spend time reading and conversing. Press will be serving pasta and sandwiches soon, but do drop by for coffee and desserts. It is located at the Power Plant Mall, Rockwell.

Holiday random thoughts

PART 1—**On gifts and bazaars.** Last week, I received my first Christmas gift—a fruitcake. I do not know what you think of fruitcakes as gifts, but I honestly thought no one was giving them away anymore and that they had gone the way of the dinosaur or the dodo.

The last few years people have replaced the fruitcake with candles, potpourri and soaps as the chosen gifts. I remember as a child (read: '70s and '80s) my mom would make fruitcakes and give them to her friends. By the time Christmas was over we had around 20. I guess what you sow you reap, and people were not so imaginative and did not have a lot of options then.

Today there are so many possibilities, just go to any bazaar, which I did and that was enough for me. Between the time I park, find something, wait for my friends or family to choose and pay, I am already in a bad mood. I pity the booths that no one visits, especially the ones that sell the same things as the others like candles, Christmas décor, etc. I end up feeling mad and depressed. So I skip bazaars altogether.

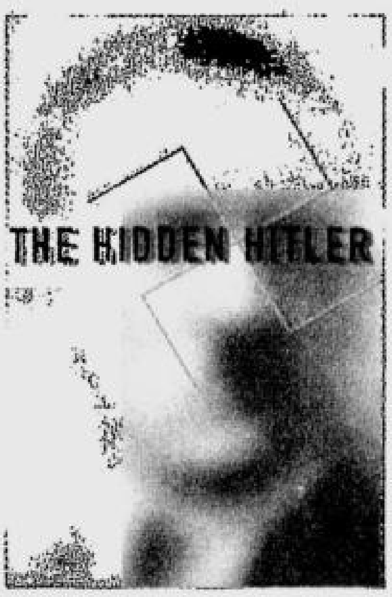
On Christmas decorations. It's so nice to go to certain parts of the city and look at all the festive lights. I particularly like those at Rustan's and Ayala. I hate the ones that look like they were hung by someone who was drunk. In homes, I really like how the décor on trees have changed from my childhood to now. Before all we had were balls, tinsel and lights. The past few years have seen some blasts of color and beautiful decoration in the form of butterflies, poinsettia leaves, etc. My friends asked me what décor was in this year. I answered, "It's always nice to have a tree set up by family and not by some professional. But if you insist, just stay away from musical lights; they're a bit tacky."

On the Christmas spirit. Despite everything—the economic crisis and world events that have dampened our spirit and wallets this holiday season—I feel that we really must continue to celebrate Christmas, not through outlandish gift-giving or getting drunk and unruly, but by focusing on the essence of it.

The first thing that comes to mind is to celebrate this season with those we love. You might say we do that every year, but this year makes it more special and meaningful. Whatever economic crisis, terrorist attacks, kidnappings, scary politicians we have to face, we must remember that the hope of mankind was born today. Everything else pales in comparison.

Was Hitler gay?

NOW I've seen and heard everything. There's a book out (available through Amazon) that claims that **Adolf Hitler** was a friend of Dorothy (think: **Judy Garland** in "Wizard of Oz"). The author argues that the actions (remember: the slaughter of six million Jews) of the world's most notorious and evil dictator was due to his repressed sexuality.



WAS he gay? The book, "Hidden Hitler," not only exposes war crimes but Hitler's hidden sexuality.

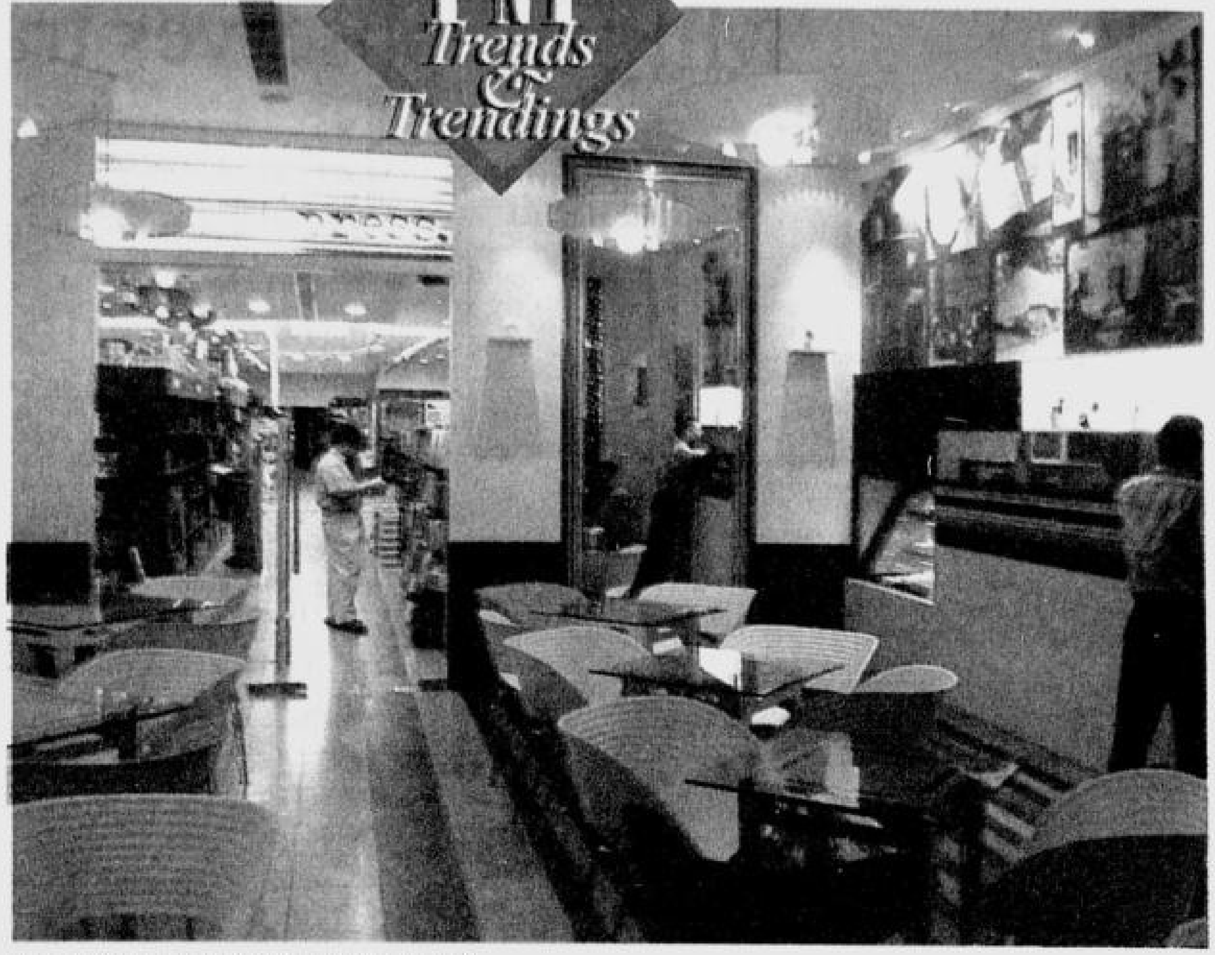
An excerpt from the book, "Hidden Hitler," quotes a supposed Hitler friend who said, "In 1915, we were billeted in the LeFebre brewery at Fournes. We slept in the hay. Hitler was bedded down at night with Schmidl, his male whore. We heard a rustling in the hay. Then someone switched on his electric flashlight and growled, 'Take a look at those two nancy boys.' "

Of his supposed affair with a certain **Mimi Reiter**, she was reported as saying, "He hugged me real tight around the neck. He kissed me. He didn't know what to do."

Whatever you may think of the book, it still offers an interesting theory or truth. Come to think of it, with that trademark mustache, if you replace the Nazi uniform with leather jacket and pants, Hitler can pass as a leather fairy.

TNT's yearend best and worst, Part 1

TNT celebrates its 100th article to date through a 2001 best and worst list. I know it's probably too early to have a yearend report but, what the heck. There's no better time to write it than now to cheer you up. This year, TNT choices will not get a fabulous No-Price from us, but if you insist in getting one, ask **Osama Bin Laden**.



PRESS at Page One, Power Plant Mall

Best Makeover of the Year: Rustan's supermarket (congratulations, the grocery looks great!) and **Judy Ann Santos** (she's thin and looks like a real actress all of a sudden);

Best Fashion Show: None. They were all great! (Almost got you there **Rajo, Inno** and **Rhett**);

Best Game Show and Emcee: "Weakest Link" and **Edu Manzano**;

Best Attended Party by name-droppables: Philippine Tatler launch;

Best Entertainment in a Social Event: Love 14 ball;

Best Lounge/Bars for 2001(this means it was opened this year): Shiraz and Fidel;

Best Salons: Emphasis and Franck Provost;

Best Restaurants that opened in 2001: Raj, People's Palace, Mangan, Café Bola, Ten Noodles;

Best Balimbing: **Korina Sanchez**. All of a sudden she is identified with the current administration;

Best Line Given by a Guest on a TV show: **Rose Hancock Porteous** in **Boy Abunda**'s show, "I would rather go to hell because Hitler is there and **Kennedy** (hmmm, I hope not);

Best Guest to Invite to Events and Parties for Her Wit, Attitude and Clothes: **Tessa Valdes**.

Worst Acting by a Murder Suspect: **Philip Medel Jr.**, you almost got us there! That breakdown scene can only be done by **Christopher de Leon**;

Worst Natural Calamity: Well, since no major typhoon wrought havoc on the country this year, the only thing I can think of is Sen. **Tessie Oreta**;

Worst Line Ever Said at the Wake of **Nida Blanca**: From a certain director, "At least she went out with a bang." (I don't think she envisioned she would die struggling, dear!);

Worst Third Sex Offenders: Gays who dress and look like women but are not transvestites. Suggestion: Go all the way or not at all;

Worst Boy Band to Walk the Earth after Menudo: Abu Sayyaf;

Worst Dressed Group of Women: Those who love to give and attend costume or themed parties;

Worst TV Show: all telenovelas;

Worst Game Show: "Family Feud" and "Wheel of Fortune";

Worst Thing that Ever Happened to Us this Year: Sept. 11 WTC attacks;

Worst Guest to Have for Parties and Events Because She Might Upstage the Host because of Her Wit, Attitude and Clothes: **Tessa Valdes**;

Worst Attitude: Self-promotion (especially by politicians and some social figures), indifference and selfishness.

E-mail the author at asd_world@hotmail.com

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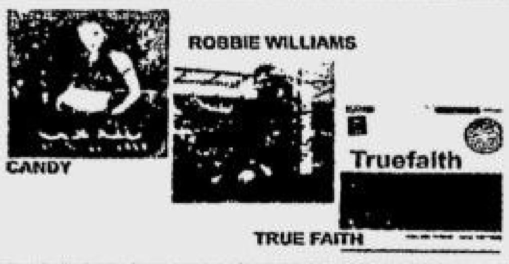
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Hint: Check out *Lifestyle's Arts/Design* section on Monday, December 10 for Inquirer's My Wish Box

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P 365.50*

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France
Light-bodied, fresh, elegant champagne with rich bouquet.
P 1,955*

Cattier Brut Non Vintage
A fruity champagne with character. Well-balanced and rich in aromas.
P 1,275*

Great Christmas Reds

Barcelo Tinto 1999
Castilla y Léon, Spain
Fresh, young juicy raspberry fruit with touch of spices and well-balanced acidity.
P 306*

Tommasi Valpolicella Classico 1999
Verona, Italy
Dry, warm and vigorous with an almond finish.
P 331.50*

Taja 1998
Jumilla, Spain
A famous wine in Spain. Known for its rich, full-bodied, deeply flavored wine.
P 331.50*

Mähler-Besse Vieux Moulin 1997
Bordeaux, France
A well-rounded, supple wine of consistently fine quality.
P 416.50*

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Bordeaux, France
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*Prices of wines are at 15-20% discounted price on cash sales.

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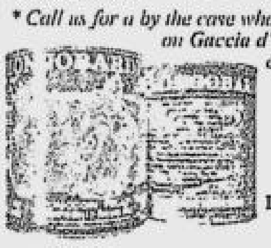

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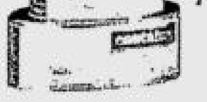

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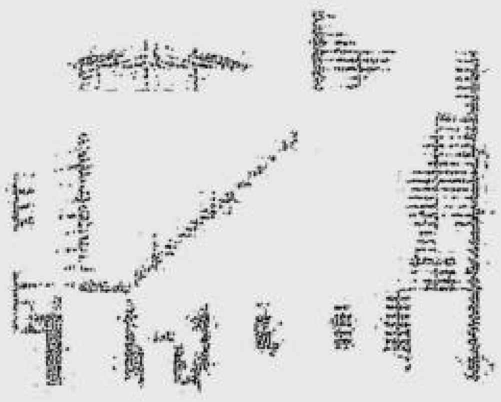
GENTXT gigguide

movies

- **GENTXT Movie Night " Rock Star"**
  Date : December 08
  Time : 8:00 pm
  Venue: Glorietta 4
  THX Cinema 3



events

- **GENTXT Billiards Night featuring "The Groove"**
  Date : December 04
  Time : 7:00 pm
  Venue: Gameworx, Festival Mall
- **M2M Live!**
  Date : December 07
  Time : 6:00 pm
  Venue: World Trade Centre, Manila
- **"The Company" Live**
  Date : December 14
  Time : 9:00 pm
  Venue: Summit Bar,
  Royal Mandaya Hotel, Davao
- **Hard Rock Concert Series**
  Date : December 12 (South Border)
  December 20 (FreeStyle)
  December 29 (Side A)
  Time : 9:30 pm
  Venue: Hard Rock Café, Glorietta 3

parties

- **StreetLife Re-Opening Party**
  Date : December 12
  Time : 7:30 pm
  Venue : Glorietta 2
- **GENTXT Winter Rush**
  Date : December 15
  Time : 9:00 pm
  Venue : Where Else,
  Hotel Inter-Continental
- **GRILLA Christmas Party**
  Date : December 19
  Time : 8:00 pm
  Venue : Grilla, Libis
- **Skybox 1st Anniversary Year-end Party**
  Date : December 28
  Time : 9:00 pm
  Venue : Skybox Restaurant & Bar,
  Baguio

dining

- Enjoy some delectable goodies at Biscotti en Cocolat and Art Avenue this season. Visit www.gentxt.com.ph for more details.

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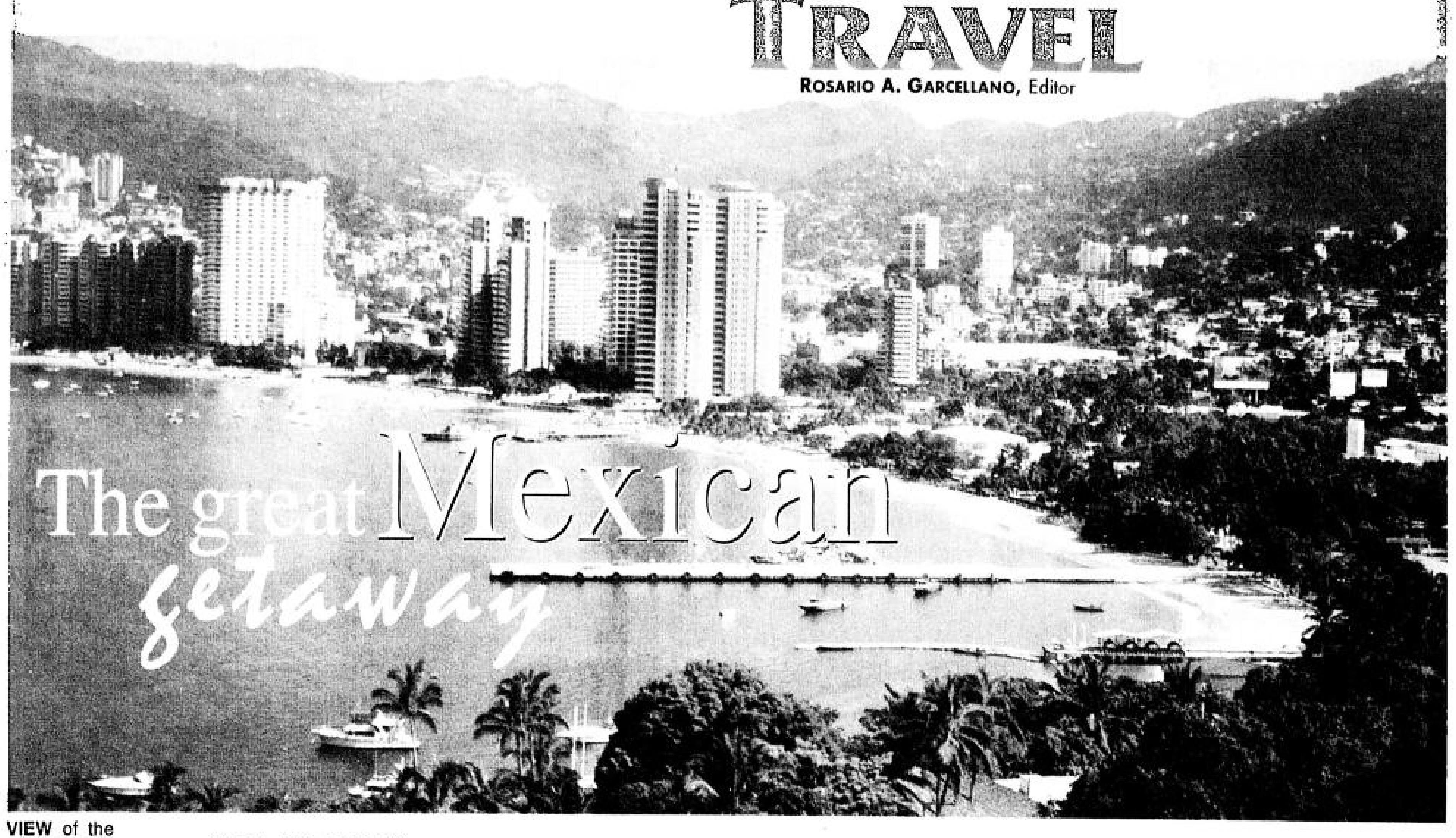


The great Mexican getaway

VIEW of the world-famous Acapulco Bay

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY BIBSY M. CARBALLO

> The residents did not fawn on the tourist just to make a sale—a most refreshing attitude

IF you're traveling to Mexico for whatever reason—its fabulous beach resorts, our shared history as Spanish colonies, its famed tequila, tacos and *telenovelas*—take our word for it, there's only one way to go. And that's the way we went—a 7-night cruise on the Sea Princess along the Mexican Riviera coupled with a 5-day inland stay in Acapulco and Mexico City.

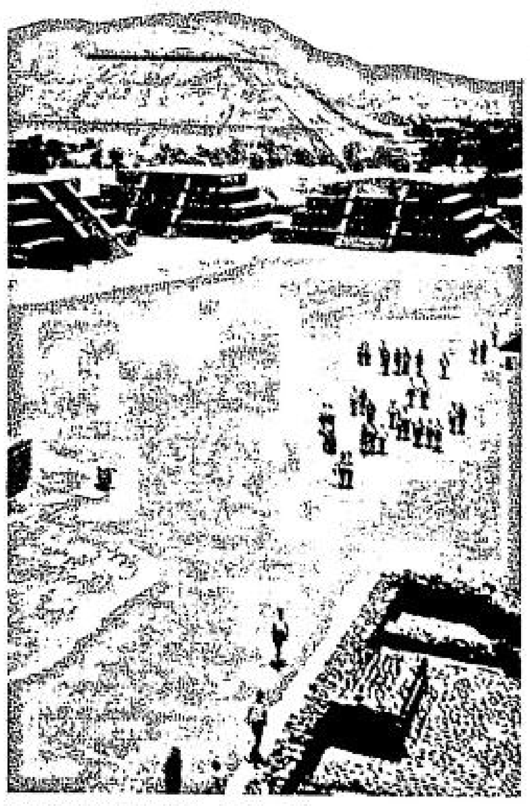
Princess Cruises does the Mexican Riviera itinerary, (Los Angeles-Puerta Vallarta-Mazatlan-Cabo San Lucas-Los Angeles and three days at sea) weekly all year round. It's a new offering that started in October. Prices packaged with round-trip airfare on China Airlines range from a low of $1,350 for inside cabin and economy ticket to a high of $2,610 for outside cabin with balcony and business ticket.

Puerto Vallarta (pop.: 250,000) is second only to Cancun as the most visited resort in all of Mexico, attracting 2.2 million tourists a year. It would have remained the sleepy little fishing village it had been for hundreds of years had not Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton filmed "Night of the Iguana" there and begun their tumultuous romance, bringing the town to the attention of the world.

An hour away is the jungle of the Sierra Madre, where one can take a woodland trek tour ($80). It is an easy walk where 250-year-old cactus plants and strangler trees co-exist with iguanas, scorpions and snakes, and where lunch is served on the beach. The sights and sounds of the jungle are just like our Subic's, except that the guides here are better trained and more motivated and the facilities (running hot and cold water, toilets on the beach) are superior to ours.

The visitor uninterested in jungle fare could well do the city and coastal drive ($24) for half a day, then go wild shopping in town for brightly colored souvenirs. Other, more adventurous options are diving, sailing, snorkeling, kayaking, swimming with the dolphins, riding horseback through the countryside and a game of golf, the costs of which range from $50 to $90 and which end in time for the 5:30 p.m. embarkation on the ship.

After sailing through the night, the ship drops anchor at dawn of the next day at Mazatlan (pop.: 600,000). Because the town is medium-sized by Mexican standards, it is not dependent on tourism. Its shrimp exports are the largest in Mexico, and it is home to Pacifico beer as well as various tuna fishing, freezing and canning plants.



THE PYRAMIDS of Teotijuacan

This devil-may-care attitude we found very distinct during the tour we took into the little interior towns where people make adobe bricks from volcanic rock and hand-painted cement tiles, pottery, furniture and baskets in much the same manner their forebears had done for hundreds of years. Although willing to demonstrate their expertise, the residents did not fawn on the tourist to make a sale. Either you bought or you didn't—a most refreshing attitude.

The tour ended in a folkloric demonstration of the Papantla flyers, who climb a pole and descend flying on a rope. An optional tour of Mazatlan highlights plus the flyers' show costs $29.

We also visited little Cabo San Lucas (pop.: under 25,000). The half-day in port is just enough to walk around the town of coconut-lined avenues, where every corner is a flea market and arched rocks jut spectacularly out of the waters. It is so charming that 550,000 tourists visited last year.

The day visits to the three resort towns are delightful primers but one must remember that they will never approximate the experience of spending several days and nights in one destination.

Acapulco

Now on our own, we head for world-famous Acapulco (pop.: 722,000). The trip hosted by Mexico's domestic carrier Mexicana (LA-Acapulco-Mexico City-LA for $465) and Hyatt Regency Acapulco (c/o Hyatt Manila, 833-1231) is a wonderful way to see the sights for two days and three nights.

We savored the local color coming in from the airport on an underground (i.e., unlicensed and therefore cheaper) taxi at a third of the regular rate; watched the magnificent sunset from the suite balcony ($2,400 per person, $900 each for three in a room, $750 per person in a double room) fronting the famed Acapulco Bay; walked along the beaches half- deserted in the low season; went through Fuerte de San Diego (which, like our Fort Santiago, was built in the 1600s as lookout for pirates and now houses a museum with artifacts from the Manila-Acapulco galleon trade that lasted 250 years); inched through the narrow streets of the *barrios historicos* at the Poso de la Nacion ("hole of the country") where poor entrepreneurs live; sampled the local bingo and bowling; and negotiated with cabbies driving VW Beetles with no meters.

A tour of the city and an exhibition of the La Quebrada cliff divers, who leap from 130-foot rock formations to barely five meters of water below, costs $26 through the Expomarketing travel agency. The rest one can well do at leisure, being accessible by taxi or on foot. There are also less expensive beachfront hotels starting at $6.50 for the student traveler or backpacker.

Mexico City

And finally, Mexico City, which is much maligned for its pollution, traffic and congestion. It has 25 million people and 4 million vehicles, making it the largest in the world, and like Manila, it beckons to every rural lad and lass dreaming of a better life.

The resident of Mexico City insists that in terms of the crime rate it is no worse and no better than any other large city in the world, and cracks jokes about the traffic and pollution. As center of the country's commerce and industry and hub of all international flights, the city is fiercely proud of its heritage.

Monuments celebrating every important event in its history line the wide avenues of Reforma and the 44-kilometer Insurgentes. The Archeological Museum painstakingly documents the lives of the earliest indigenous tribes from the Olmecas to the Aztecs. The Diego Rivera murals at the National Palace trace the country's history on its walls. And the Pyramids of Teotijuacan of 400 B.C., which took 300 years to build, stand proudly as the city's prime attraction for more than 2 million visitors annually.

MOSAIC décor outside a Mexican home

The Filipino pilgrim will certainly not miss the Black Nazarene (like its counterpart in Quiapo), with its interesting tale of turning black to save a devotee, and the plaza of five churches dedicated to the Virgin of Guadalupe and where the miraculous mantel with her image is enshrined. This Virgin is visited by millions of devotees on her feastday, Dec. 12, which marks her miraculous apparition to the Aztec convert Juan Diego.

During the Virgin's centenary in 1995, our Jaime Cardinal Sin visited the cathedral and cracked his old joke regarding the House of Sin, says our guide. The Philippine flag stands beside other flags of the world that surround the viewing area.

The Nuevo Mundo agency tour of the Pyramids and Guadalupe costs $30, and one should spend at least half a day at the Archeological Museum on one's own. A medium-sized hotel at the center of town, like the Casa Blanca where we stayed ($86 for single room, $52 each for a double, and $31 each if there is a party of four in a suite), has all the amenities of a 5-star hotel, plus personalized service. All hotel bookings and tours in Acapulco and Mexico City can be done through Mexicana Airlines (817-0253).

2 weeks

How much then will a 2-week sojourn cost? A Filipino traveler with a budget of P160,000 will find the going very comfortable and still have enough for shopping. A budget of P100,000 will cover the cruise, two basic tours, plus $500 for shopping minus the Acapulco-Mexico City portion.

The cruise ship, with practically everything free on board (food, movies, nightly variety and stand-up comedy shows, etc.) proves once and for all that cruising is still the best and cheapest way to travel. The biggest part of the bargain to the Filipino, however, is that one can do a side trip either before or after the cruise and visit relatives and sites in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Las Vegas.

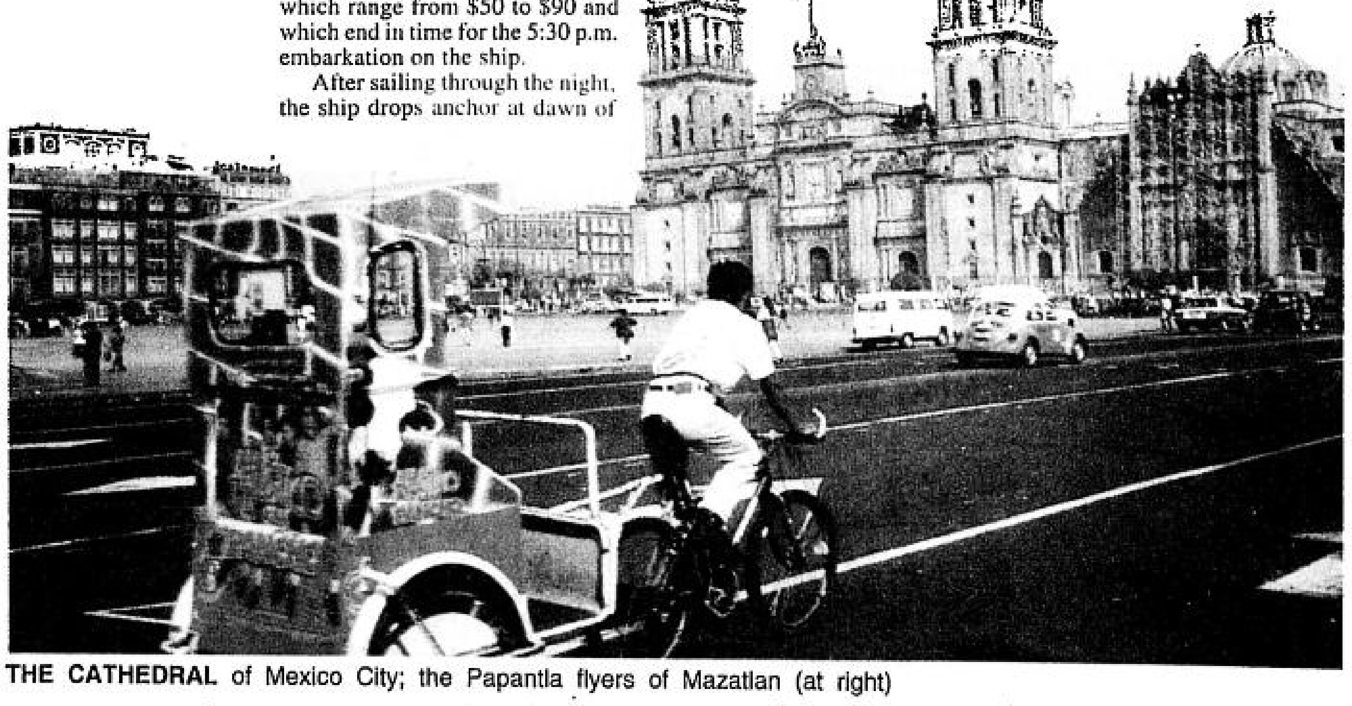
Mexico can be very attractive to the Filipino because the culture is familiar (coconuts, tricycles, election graffiti, *sari-sari* stores, provincial plazas, beaches, Catholic rituals and icons) and yet comes with sights and practices (cliff divers, bullfights, tile and mosaic art, giant cacti) that are alien and exceedingly interesting.

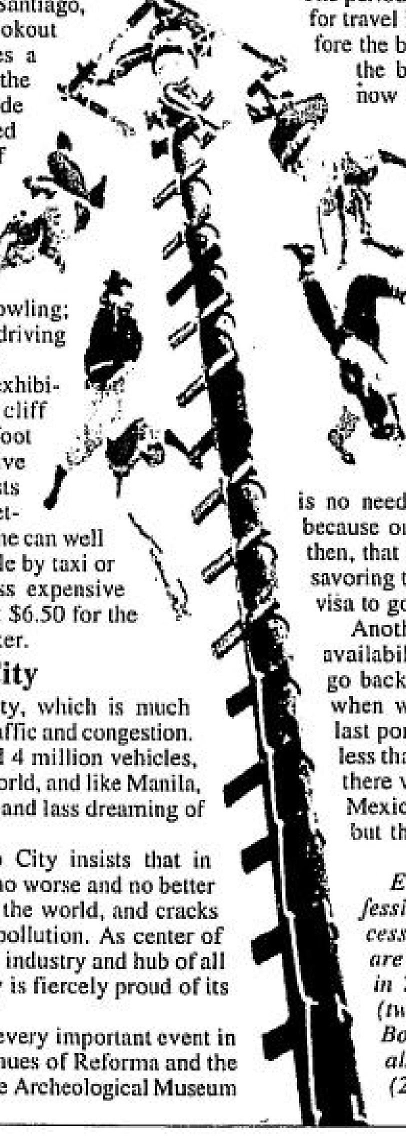
The period from November to May is low season for travel in the Americas and Europe and therefore the best time to go on bargain prices. After the bombing tragedy in the United States now known as "9-11," tourism worldwide has drastically dropped and more bargains are in the offing. But one has to contend with airport and port security measures where at times each and every bag is inspected with a fine-toothed comb.

Another minus point on this trip is the horrendous taxes one has to pay for a visa to re-enter Mexico (P5,000 plus) and the domestic airport tax (P1,000) we had to pay flying from Acapulco to Mexico City. In the cruise sector, Princess takes care of everything, and checking in and out of LA is a breeze. There is no need for a visa to Mexico on the cruise because one never stays overnight in town. But then, that is one big opportunity lost in terms of savoring the local color. But one does need a US visa to go on this trip.

Another area that needs attention is flight availability. We found it ridiculous to have to go back to LA to board a flight to Acapulco when we could have flown from Cabo, our last port on the cruise to Acapulco, which is less than a hour's flying time away. But then, there were no direct flights between the two Mexican destinations. One could go by land, but then that would be another story.

Eve Cayaban, president of Cruise Professionals, General Sales Agent for Princess Cruises (813-7407 to 09) says they are considering offering a 10-night tour in 2002 that will incorporate Acapulco (two nights) and Mexico City (one night). Bookings for the Mexican cruises can also be done through Traders Travel (241-5101 to 06).





THE CATHEDRAL of Mexico City; the Papantla flyers of Mazatlan (at right)

A book-lover's London

BY RUEL S. DE VERA

TOGETHER with the distinct black cabs and the shiny red double-deck buses, bookshops define London. This sprawling city seems to have more bookstores per kilometer than any other city on the planet. Not only is the city's geography perfect for walking from one store to another, but the myriad styles of ornate architecture make every walk a scenic one.

For the literary buff, there is a variety of places to absorb London's unique book buzz. Cross over to the East End, past Cheapside, and you'll be where Charles Dickens set almost all his books. Anyone who's recently stayed up all night reading Alan Moore's "From Hell" will appreciate the tight alleys of Whitechapel—Jack the Ripper's former haunt. Beyond the docks is the River Thames.

And if all that walking tires you out, just take it easy with a book on a park bench—in Notting Hill, of course. Unfortunately, Hugh Grant's travel bookshop isn't really there.

But fortunately, there are real bookstores within easy reach. Interestingly enough, London's best bookstores are actually located almost exclusively along a single street—or within walking distance of quaint and busy Charing Cross Road, just off the shopper's delight Oxford Street and the theater hub Leicester Square.

Charing Cross is just one bookstore next to the other, a wonderful monotony broken only by the occasional café or bargain-ticket outlet. On any given day, it vibrates with the unending footfalls of book-hunters from across the globe.

They come because in London, everyone is encouraged to browse and stay as long as they want. They come because the bookstore employees know exactly where every title may be found, no matter how many books there are. They come because the city resonates with the sound of pages being turned.

They come for the megastores, such as US chain Border's. The Charing Cross Road branch (there's an identical branch on Oxford Street) features three floors of every kind of recently published book, music, video—and good coffee. Across from it is the venerable 4-floor Foyle's. Then there's the giant Blackwell's and Waterstones stores, just a stone's throw from each other.

The book-hunters come here for some of the most unique bookshops anywhere. The specialty stores carry their passions on their signs, so genre fans will immediately recognize what they're searching for.

Murder One's blood-and-fingerprint sign screams homicide. Here one will find all the crime and thrillers one could ever want. It's always full, so that should also reveal how popular these bloodstained tomes are.

Across the street is Silver Moon, which carries books for women. From feminist tomes to lesbian lit, Silver Moon carries any and all publications for the intellectually independent female. And like many of the bookstores on Charing Cross Road, there's a lower floor accessible through a stairway, so make sure you check out all the store's treasures.

R.S. DE VERA

BOOK heaven on Charing Cross Road

Perhaps the world's only bookstore devoted to sports books is also found on Charing Cross. Sportspages carries new and old books, magazines and videos on every sport imaginable—basketball, baseball, American football, rugby, cycling, motor sports, fishing and boxing, just to name a few. Of course, London also being a soccer-crazy town, soccer fans visiting Sportspages will think they've died and gone to Manchester United heaven.

For comic book fans, Comics Showcase is close to Murder One, and the proprietor will tell you that these days, "it's all about the X-Men."

For the die-hard science fiction and comic fan, the cornucopia that is London's Forbidden Planet is just a stroll away, on New Oxford Street. This store's two floors will impress you with every comic, sci-fi and fantasy book or video plus merchandise all the way to Krypton.

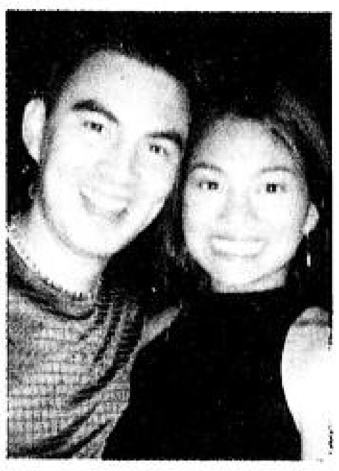
And just a flash away, near the National Gallery, is Gosh! (identified by the Batman symbol above the window), which specializes in original art.

The book-hunter of various persuasions will then return to Charing Cross Road because of the plethora of stores offering used books and displaying bargains of all kinds. Then there are the antiquarian and rare bookstores, which hold valuable first editions, complete with the amazing price tags. There are bookstores about music, art and design. Indeed, there's something for everyone—and there's no need to take a pricey cab ride.

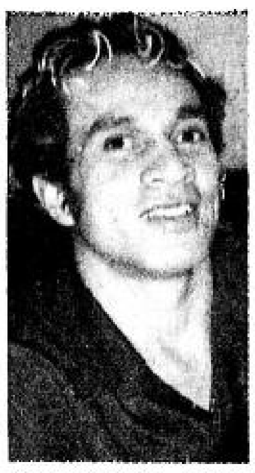
ANGELI Valenciano, Anthony Panglingan and Pinky Yee

PDI president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez

REP. Sherwin Gatchalian


HANS Montenegro and Miriam Quiambao

FREDDIE Garcia and Freddie Jr.


BASKETBALL player Asi Taulava

Ad congress wows audiences

TEESAW

Raul Teehankee

THE 17TH Philippine National Advertising Congress held at the Waterfront Hotel Lahug in Cebu City was one big wow!

Fresh from her US and Mexico trips, President **Macapagal-Arroyo** was seen having a good time during the affair. **Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala** delivered the keynote address. Rep. **Sherwin Gatchalian** and Mayor **Tommy Osmena** graciously welcomed guests. GMA 7 raffled away a million pesos and seven Rolex watches after the Araw Awards presentation. ABS-CBN entertained guests on a yacht and gave away free international trips.

A total of 2,400 advertising delegates and over a hundred entertainers and personalities like **Assunta da Rossi, Ara Mina, Edu Manzano, Christopher de Leon,** The Hunks, **Gary Valenciano, Martin Nievera, Vina Morales,** Jaya and **Janno Gibbs** partied all night long.

We enjoyed our stay at the Waterfront with our hosts, **Patrick Gregorio,** COO of the Waterfront properties, and **Angelica Suiza,** vice chair of the organizing committee. We also had a grand time at Mi Vida, Voodoo and The Abbey, where we had a quick game at the Casino Filipino.

We're looking forward to the next ad congress in 2003.

COGIE Domingo with mom Zeny at the opening of the Oxygen/Penshoppe ads exhibit

JAYA, Janno Gibbs, Bing Loyzaga and VJ Paul Hammond

CAL Carrie's models in fatigue outfits

DINGDONG Dantes

EDU Manzano

VINA Morales, Katrina Tuason and Lea Cordon

CEBU Mayor Tommy Osmeña with wife Margot

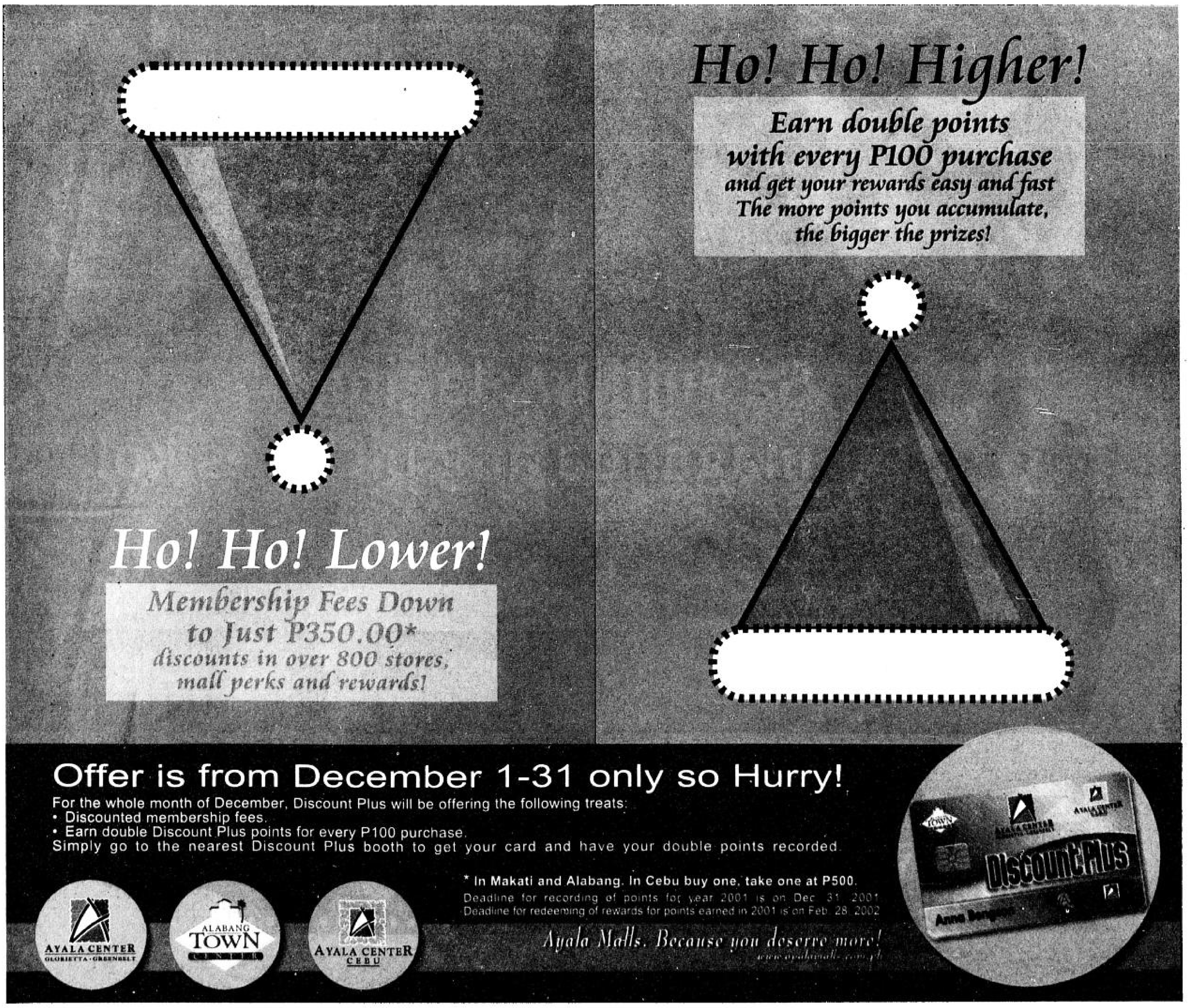
DENNIS and Tessa Valdes

PAOLO Bediones with singer Maxine

THE HUNKS a.k.a. Jericho Rosales, Bernard Palanca, Piolo Pascual, Carlos Agassi and Diether Ocampo

DIRECTORS Tony Gloria, Joey Reyes and Don Escudero

PATRICK Gregorio, COO of Waterfront Hotels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- Earn double Discount Plus points for every P100 purchase.

Simply go to the nearest Discount Plus booth to get your card and have your double points recorded.

* In Makati and Alabang. In Cebu buy one, take one at P500.
Deadline for recording of points for year 2001 is on Dec. 31, 2001
Deadline for redeeming of rewards for points earned in 2001 is on Feb. 28, 2002

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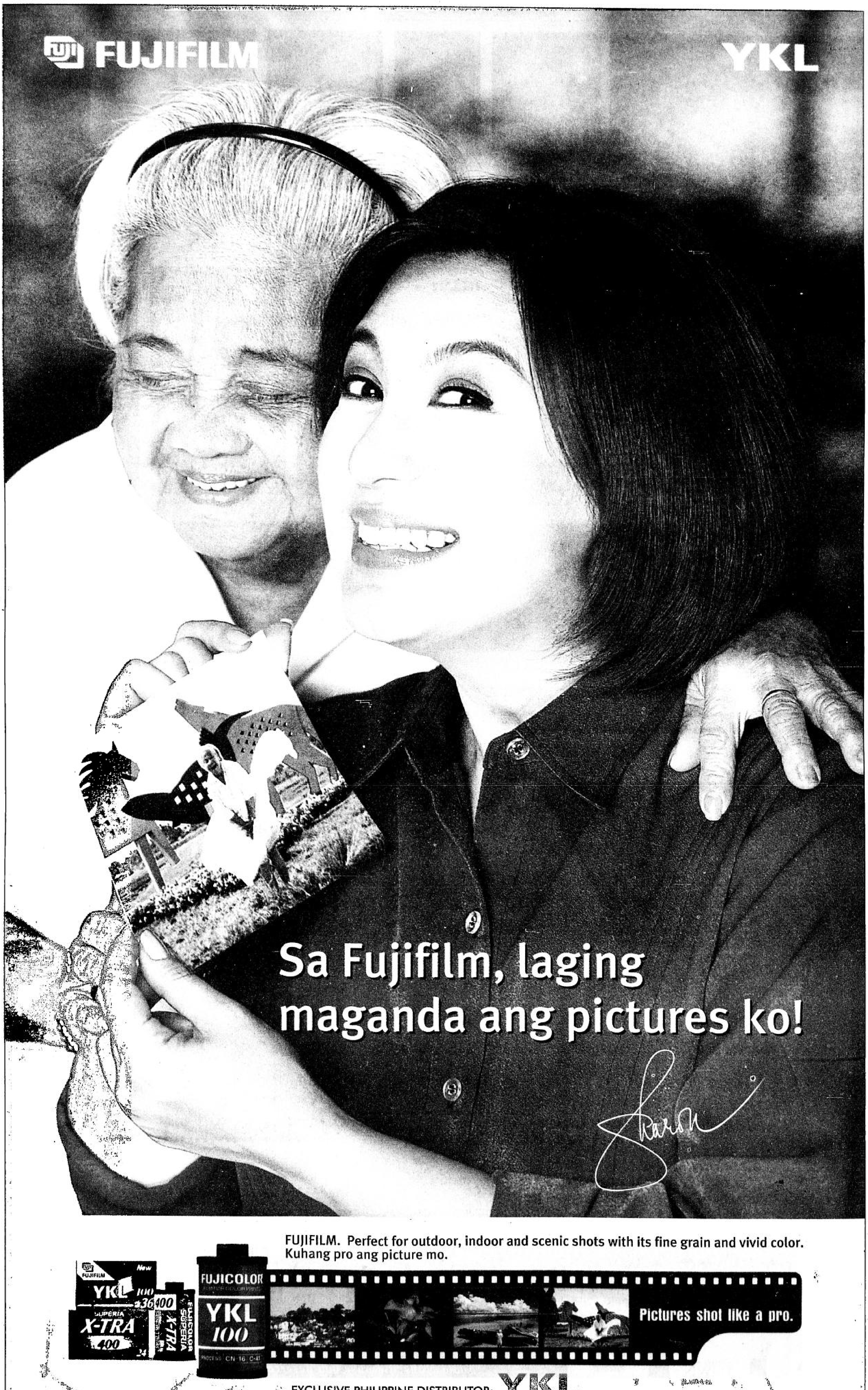
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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Week Waker uppers

P56:$1, lawmaker's 'outing,' smallpox outbreak and other daring 2002 predictions

COMPILED BY LITO ZULUETA

THE THIRD Psychic Conference organized by the Vida de Gracia Spiritual Association International of Sister Nida Talon might not have said anything unexpected about the state of the economy and the peace and order situation in the country (they will continue to be bad at least during the first half of the new year), but there were a few intriguing predictions that should keep us closely following events in the year 2002.

Such as: the dollar will cost P55-56 if left alone, and P60 if manipulated; cases against ousted President **Joseph Estrada** and Sen. **Panfilo Lacson** will have no resolution; a young male actor will die from an accident around the second or third quarter of 2002, while a thirtysomething actress will die of cancer; the **Nida Blanca** murder will **not** be completely resolved because the real criminal may be able to leave the country; **Osama bin Laden**, suspected of masterminding the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States and other international violent incidents, will be captured and brought to

P56:$1/ p.F3

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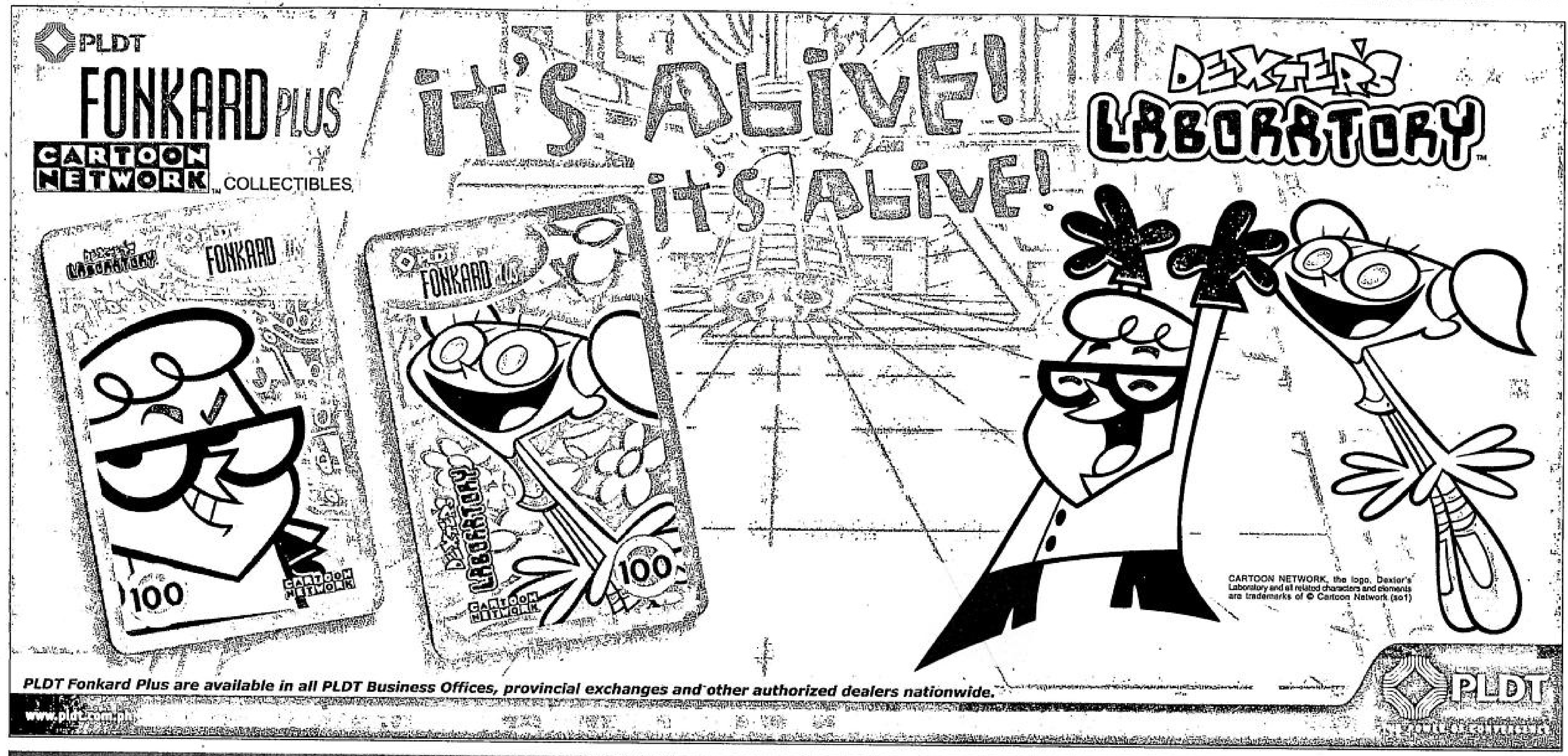

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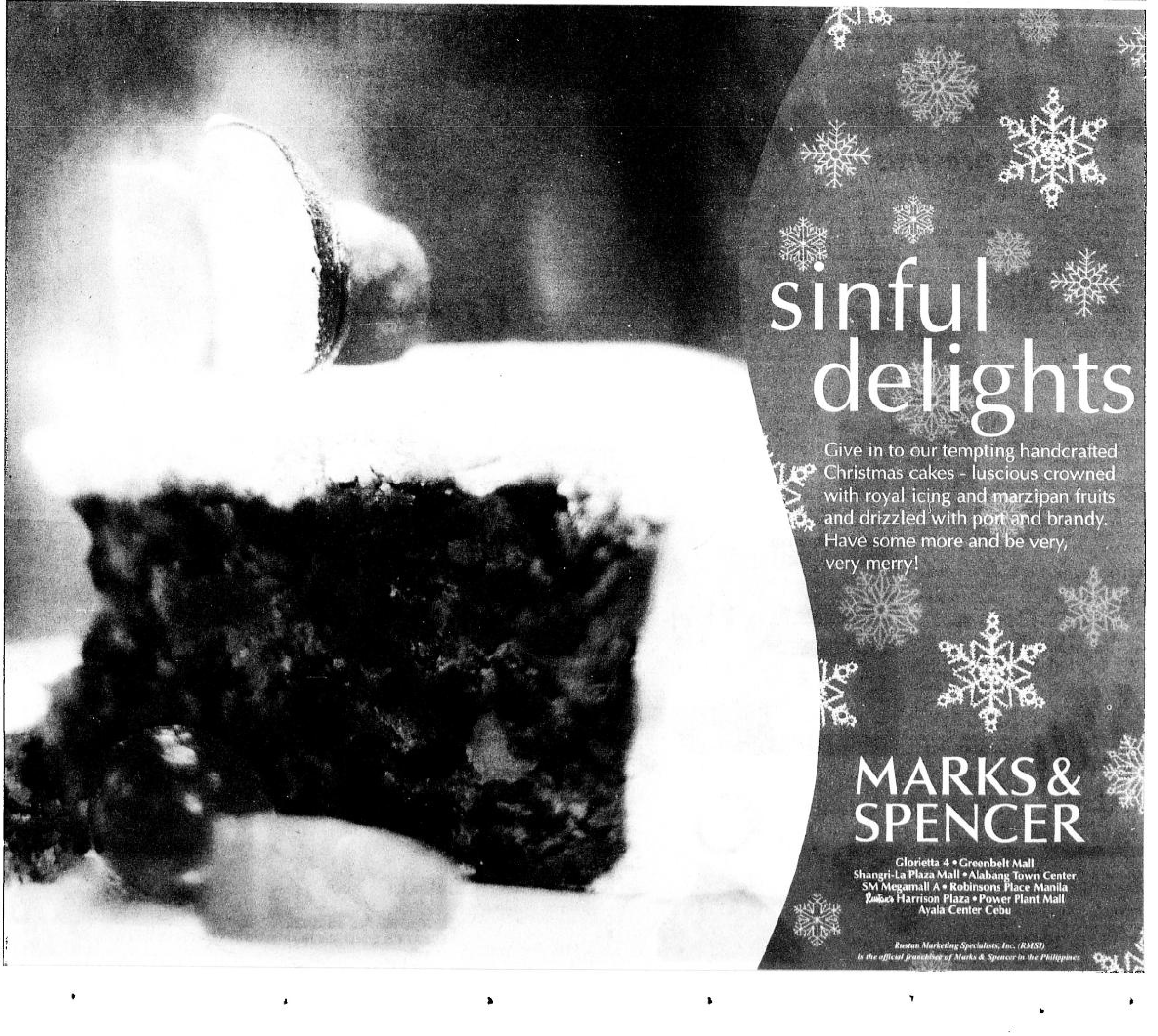

Give in to our tempting handcrafted Christmas cakes - luscious crowned with royal icing and marzipan fruits and drizzled with port and brandy. Have some more and be very, very merry!

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SM Megamall A • Robinsons Place Manila
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Ayala Center Cebu

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ROSEANNE and Nicky de Lange, the power couple behind the furniture company

Designs Ligna's furniture command hefty prices but the polish of craftsmanship makes it worth it

QUEEN-SIZE Bamboo Twigs bed, of stained white maple, with bamboo screen and dresser of maple wood and crushed bamboo

Pricey gifts to last a lifetime

By Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Roger Margallo

IN SEARCH of useful and lasting gifts for Christmas? Why not try furniture? Local furniture maker Designs Ligna featured recently its high-end line at a 10-day exhibit at the Alabang Town Center. The display showcased stained maple and oakwood imported from North America, combined with native accents like crushed or parquet bamboo and dried banana leaves for a more modern feel.

The pieces may be a bit pricey but Nicky de Lange, president of Designs Ligna, vouches for their quality and workmanship. After all, the company, which started making a name for itself under Alfonso de Lange, the family patriarch, has been in the furniture business for over 30 years now. The elder De Lange is said to be the first Filipino to graduate in the United States with a degree in industrial design.

The gold standard among furniture makers is that form follows function; it is reflected in such signature pieces as the Cosmo dining set, folding bar, Bamboo Twigs bed and the Arizona love seat and chaise lounge. Most of the pieces were designed by seasoned designer Dem Bitantes and executed by skilled-furniture makers at Designs Ligna's factory in Parañaque.

Prices could range from a low of P38,880 for the queen-size Bamboo Twigs bed to as high as P170,00 for the eight-seat Cosmo dining set made of stained white oak. The king-size Woven Wood bed could set you back by P49,800, while the Havana dining set, another eight-seater made of maple in polyurethane finish, costs P146,200.

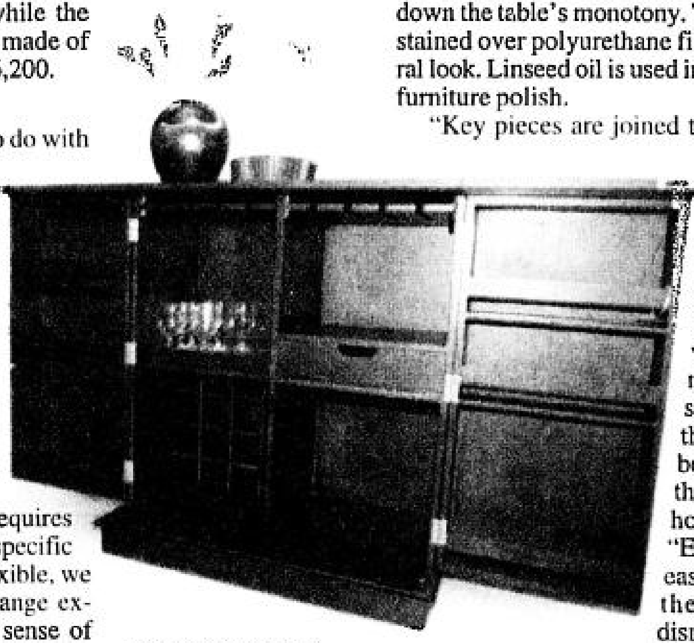
Hefty

Why the hefty price tags? A lot has to do with how Designs Ligna crafts its furniture. Unlike most competitors, it has a stable of permanent employees, many of whom have been with the company for over two decades now. It also invests heavily on skills training. Several newly hired employees, for example, are undergoing a three-year training course conducted by the Technical and Educational Skills Authority (Tesda).

No assembly line

The company has done away with the assembly line system and, instead, requires people to work in groups to produce specific results. "Apart from making us more flexible, we get things done faster this way," De Lange explains. "It fosters among employees a sense of pride and ownership in their work. They become multi-skilled as well."

Like Japanese furniture makers of yore, workers at Designs Ligna have shunned nails in favor of seamless "straight-line" pieces and dovetail joints. Surfaces are either covered in polyurethane or stained and exposed to reveal the wood's natural grains.



FOLDING bar of stained maple

The Cosmo dining set, for instance, reveals Japanese touches, from the workmanship to the opaque glass accents in the center, which broke down the table's monotony. The designer favored stained over polyurethane finish for a more natural look. Linseed oil is used instead of commercial furniture polish.

"Key pieces are joined together by screws," De Lange says, referring not only to the Cosmo but every huge furniture piece that comes out of the Designs Ligna factory. Those who went through the nightmare of moving, say, a grand piano through the balcony because it won't fit in the front door, know how important this is. "Even big pieces are easy to move because they could be dismantled."

Easy movement

As its name implies, the folding bar (P49,800) is a single piece that opens into four panels. Made of stained American maple, the "floating" or island piece is equipped with ball casters (wheels to the uninitiated) for easy movement.

"You could easily move it anywhere you want," says Roseanne de Lange, Designs Ligna's marketing manager and Nicky's better half. "Once opened and paired with bar stools, the cabinet instantly becomes a bar."

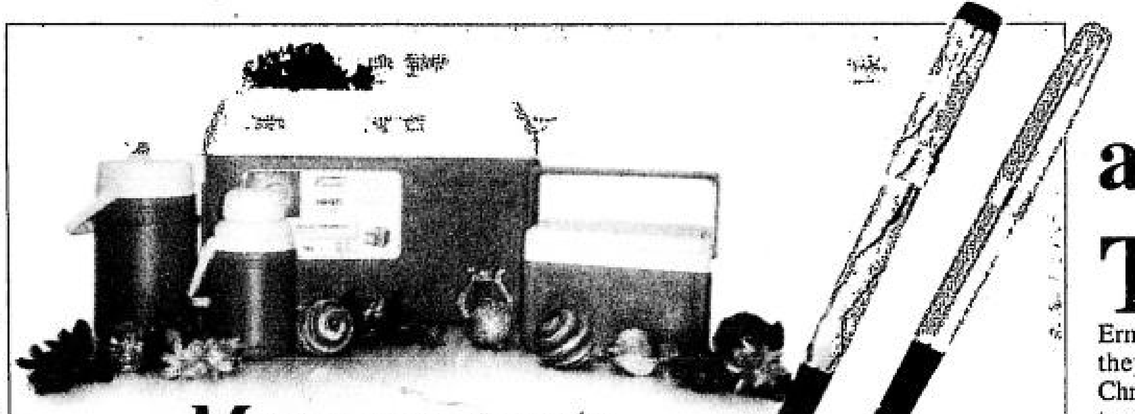
The Arizona set (P98,000 with imported leather covers) consists of a chaise lounge and love seat that, joined together, could brighten up and add texture to any room. East meets West in the leather seat and backrest covers that rest on steel frames concealed by woven banana leaves. The same material, woven finely this time, was used to cover the base of a pair of table lamps.

Filipinos are generally conservative when it comes to furniture, says De Lange. Exposure abroad, however, has made younger couples more willing now to try new, less conventional pieces. Through the years, Designs Ligna has been introducing minor innovations without radically departing from classic lines. The Bamboo Twigs bed, for instance, follows the standard silhouette of a sleigh bed, except for the use of treated bamboo twigs for the base and headboard.

"Filipinos invariably go for furniture pieces made of wood because they find them good investment pieces," says De Lange. Despite their world-class quality, only 10 percent of Designs Ligna's products make it abroad. The De Langes simply find it more fulfilling to cater to the local market.

Designs Ligna's showrooms are located at the SM Megamall and Glorietta. Call 837-2872 and 838-59-54.

E-mail author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

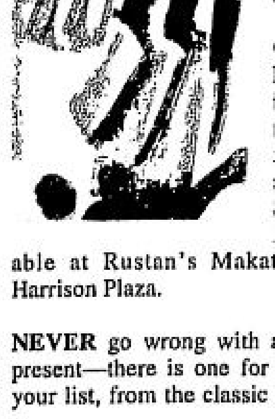


More presents

FUNCTIONAL is always a plus quality when it comes to gifts. And what family cannot use a Coleman cooler or jug? Made in the USA, Coleman coolers and jugs can be bought in combinations of three to four items, so you can even divide the items among the people on your list. Coleman also produces flashlights, tents and outdoor equipment. To see the full line of Coleman products, you can visit or call any of the Coleman Store and Service Centers at Robinsons Galleria (2/L Expansion Mall, tel. 632-9145), SM Megamall (5/L Building B, tel. 634-0648), Park Square 1 (Ayala Center, Makati, tel. 892-9019) and Alabang Town Center (2/L Expansion Mall, tel. 850-7854).

RESERVE desk space for Hewlett-Packard's latest line of printers, out now and right in time for some holiday merrymaking. HP's five new Deskjets promise a lot of functionality, incredible print quality and colors to rival a rainbow—features all often associated with its very brand name. Choose from the Deskjet 656c, Deskjet 845c, Deskjet 920c, Deskjet 948c and Deskjet 960c.

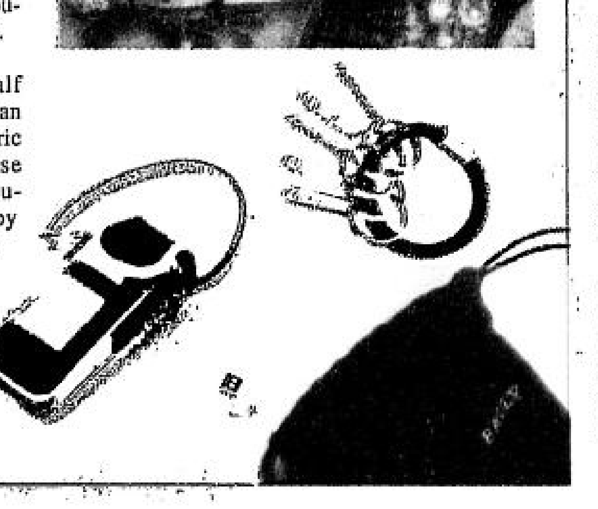
KNIVES from the plastic supplier of the world? That's right. Tupperware Philippines, now marking its 35th anniversary, has expanded its gadgets line to include knives—the butcher, the chef and the handy. Tupperware Knives have durable stainless blades and ergonomically designed handles to give a solid grip and keep your fingers away from the blades. The special design and extremely sharp blades allow easier slicing through most foods with a straight downward motion and minimal sawing. Visit your nearest distributor or call 815-9625.



CLASSIC calf keyholder for the man in your life and fabric mobile phone case from Bally, exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc. and is available at Rustan's Makati, Tower and Harrison Plaza.

NEVER go wrong with a Parker Pen present—there is one for everyone on your list, from the classic Jotter and Rialto pen to the professional's pen, the Insignia, and the writer's pen, the Sonnet; from the Frontier, with its rugged appeal to the Duofold, considered an objet d'art. For a gift that doubles as advertising, go for the Parker Vector. Parker pens can be custom-designed to suit particular marketing requirements.

FIRST-CLASS knives, flatware, scissors and manicure sets from the world famous brands Zwilling J.A. Henckels Solingen make perfect presents. Solingen high quality flatware series, Twinox manicure collection from Zwilling J.A. Henckels, Solingen kitchen gadgets such as knives, scissors and sharpening steels, come in Best Value Gift Sets. Make your one-stop holiday gift shopping at Zwilling J.A. Henckels. Visit a Solingen showroom near you: 5/L, SM Megamall; 3/L, Glorietta 4; Concourse Level, Power Plant Mall U/G Level, Alabang Town Center; 3/L, Robinsons Place Manila; and L/G Level, SM City Manila.



For the gardener, bookworm and other special people on your list

THOUGH floral arrangements are the main business of Ernest and Nana Estrera, they have come up with Christmas gift baskets that cater to various markets and moods. "We try to make sure that the arrangements are unique and that they enhance the celebration of life's special moments," Ernest says.

There is the Gardener's Special (P1,500), an ideal starter kit for people who wish for a kitchen or balcony mini-garden. It comes with three mini-garden tools, choice flower seeds packed in sachets and selected potted greens. Packaging may be a gardener's bag or a charming mini wheelbarrow.

For java junkies there is the Coffee Lover's Toolbox (P2,500), stashed with a percolator, a thermal flask, flasks of traditional dipped biscotti, a variety of coffee beans and mint chocolate bits. The wooden toolbox is transportable and reusable.

The Bookworm's Basket (P1,000 and up) contains a thermal mug, hot chocolate, a pair of magazines, a favorite book, and a pen and stationery set.

The Sweet Tooth Package (P1,000 and up) is a luscious basket that is loaded with imported candy and chocolate brands plus a cuddly stuffed bear for an even sweeter touch.

Or indulge someone with a Weekend Pampering Package (P3,500 and up) that comes with a scented candle and oil-burner set, fine wine and a pair of wine glasses. Rich and luxuriant massage oils, foam baths, foot and body scrubs, facial masques and moisturizers are included as well for that "fresh from the spa" feeling.

Sonata Floral Masterpieces, located on Henry Javier Street in Pasig City beside Valle Verde Country Club, can custom-make baskets for corporate clients or individuals according to a specified budget. Call 671-5222.

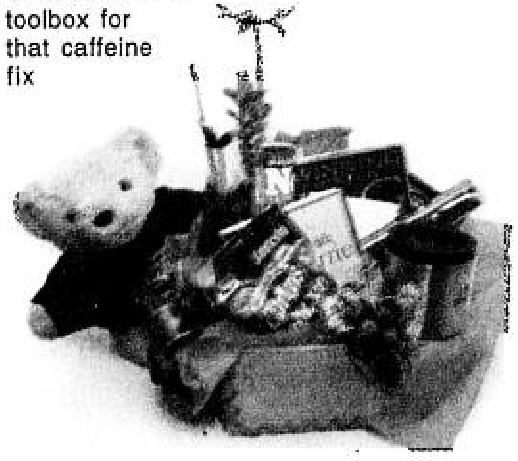
Cathy Babao Guballa

GARDENER'S special for green thumbs

JAVA HIGH. Coffee Lover's toolbox for that caffeine fix

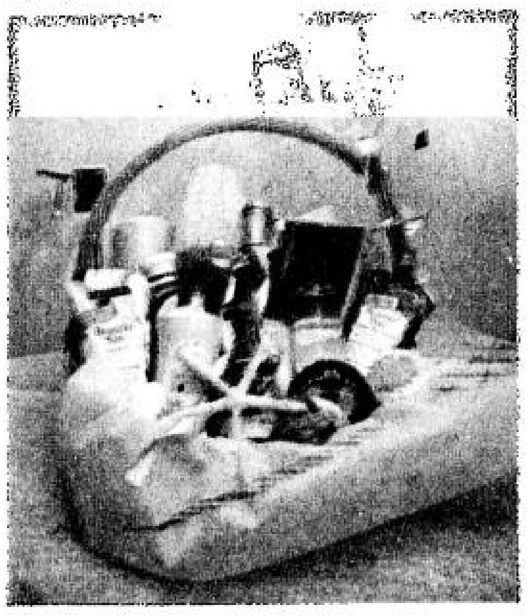
PHOTOS BY JOHNNY VILLENA

SWEET Tooth basket



BOOKWORM'S Basket for the literary types

SONATA'S Ernest and Nana Estrera



WEEKEND pampering package

P56:$1, lawmaker's 'outing,' smallpox outbreak and other daring 2002 predictions

(From page F1)

justice; a former President will die of cancer, and a man is going to cause another scandal for a top woman government official with a shocking exposé.

There's more: a legislator with a fondness for young waiters will finally be "outed," the Marcos' alleged hidden wealth will not be recovered and smallpox will become the next public health scare after anthrax.

The consensus was President **Macapagal-Arroyo**'s troubles would continue, particularly from people wanting to boot her out. But not to worry—her talent and determination would help her survive.

The survey that went pffft

IT wasn't business as usual on GMA network's "Debate" last Thursday. The phone survey question was whether ex-governor **Rudy Fariñas** should be blamed for the death of his wife **Maria Theresa Carlson.** And who should be sitting among the panelists but Fariñas himself, who claimed he was not told about the survey. He, being a lawyer ,and a not-too-shabby one at that, of course vehemently protested the bias of the question and threatened to walk out rather than allow himself to be subjected to such a media trial. A rather long series of commercials ensued before the show went back on air, and the survey question never came up again. How did that question get past the usually *matinik Mareng* **Winnie** and legal mind **Oscar Orbos**? What were the people behind "Debate" thinking when they decided on that survey? Or was anybody thinking?

Diplomatic letdown

BICOL'S Daragang Magayon proved once again that its charm was irresistible during a recent visit to Albay by a group of foreign ambassadors who went to the province to look at the progress of a project their governments are supporting. Leaders of people's organizations in the provinces where the project was being implemented went to Albay so they could personally report on the progress they were making.

By the time the community leaders made their presentation, however, they found they were actually reporting only to each other. Their distinguished guests, for whom they took all that trouble, had left to try to take a closer look at the majestic and enigmatic Mayon Volcano despite overcast skies. But true to her temperamental nature, Mayon did not allow them as much as a glimpse of her fabled beauty. Both community leaders and ambassadors ended up disappointed.

Stop the media blitz

IN TRUE show biz fashion, the road mishap that climaxed the truancy of juvenile sweethearts **Vandolph** and **Desiree Raquiza** has become a tear-jerker, what with Vandolph's actor-politician stepdad, Parañaque Mayor **Joey Marquez**, intent on milking the sorry episode for all its melodrama. Shortly after Raquiza died and TV reporters claimed Vandolph shed tears even as he was in a coma, Marquez said something like Desiree might have been saying goodbye to Vandolph at the time, plus more soap opera stuff like that. Perhaps because both Vandolph's parents, **Alma Moreno** and **Dolphy**, have stayed away from the media, Marquez has been doing all the talking. What he says can be summed up in one sentence: what happened was God's will. Is he conditioning the public—and Raquiza's parents—not to blame him and Alma, or sue them, for the girl's wrongful death? The best thing he can do is to shut his trap.

Homeless next year?

SENATE Minority Leader **Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr.** said the Philippine Embassy in London may have to move out of its present location next year because the government cannot afford the excessive increase in rent that the building owner is charging.

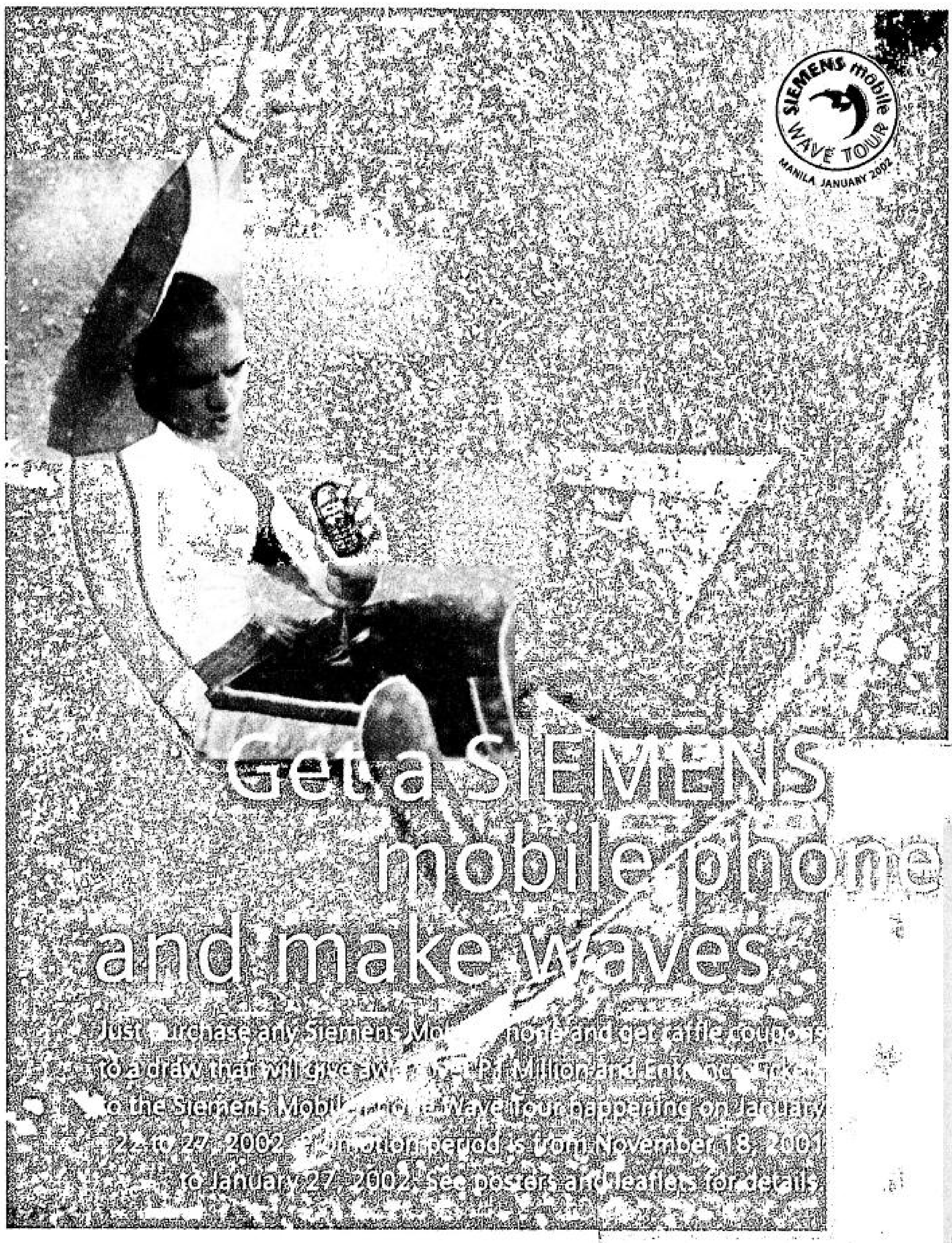
Pimentel said he found out from Ambassador to the United Kingdom **Cesar Bautista** that the lease on the embassy and chancery premises in London will expire in April 2002. "And there is no way we can renew the lease at £26 million British up front for a 99-year lease in addition to £330,000 per annum," he said.

He said the lease payment is simply too expensive and beyond the government's financial capability.

Pimentel, together with Senate President **Franklin Drilon** and Senators **Vicente Sotto III** and **Robert Jaworski**, visited the Philippine embassy in London during an official trip to the UK from Nov. 3-9 upon the invitation of the British parliament.

He cited the dilemma of the Philippine embassy over office site in the light of reports that the Arroyo administration had advertised the sale of two government properties in Japan in the Japan Times.

These properties are the reparations building in Nampeidai, Shibuya, Tokyo and the old Philippine consulate site in Kobe, Japan. Pimental recalled that there was an attempt during the Aquino administration to sell the government-owned Roppongi property in Tokyo, but this did not materialize because of the strong objection from Congress and the public. ***(The sale was stopped by the Supreme Court, which ruled that the Roppongi property was part of the national patrimony-Ed.)***



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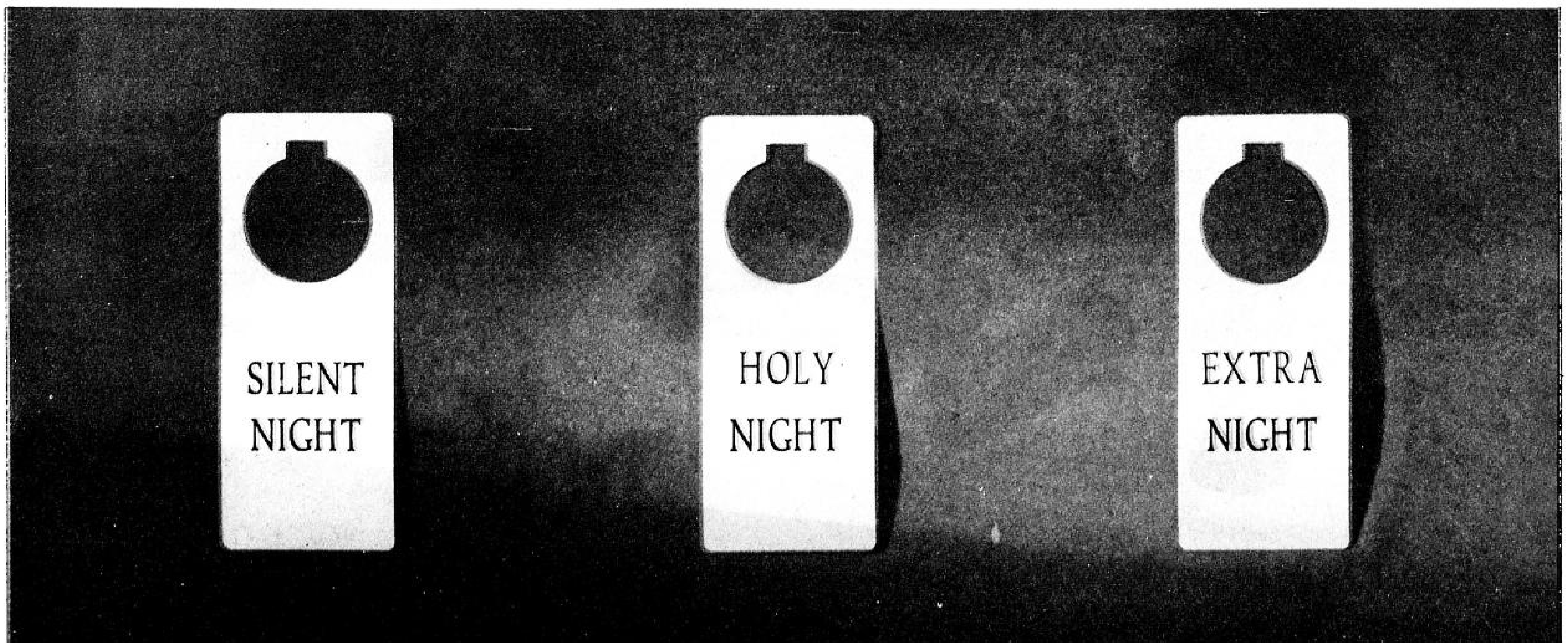

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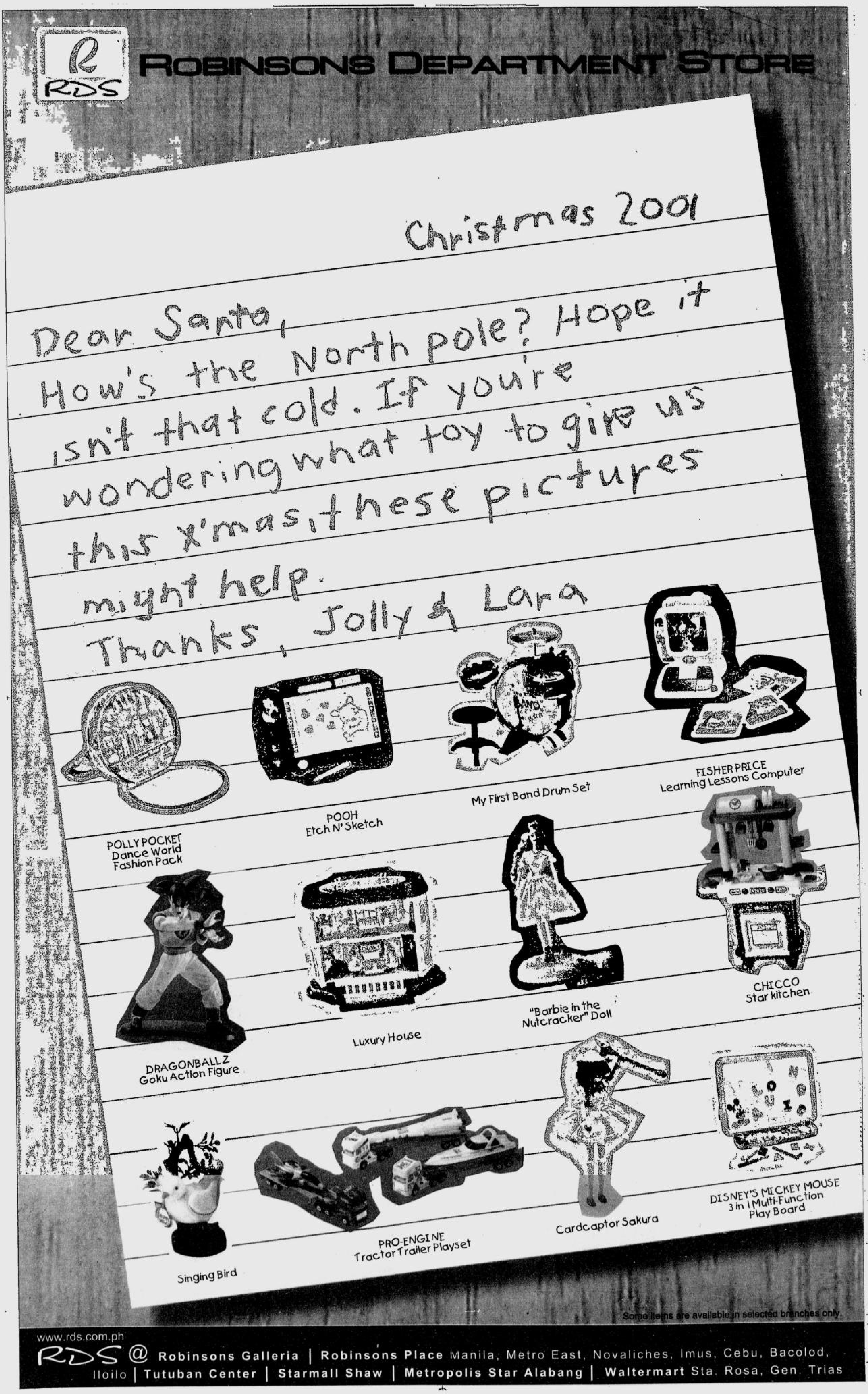

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER 16

Fun & Freedom

SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 9, 2001

16 things you must know about the Inquirer

1. Honors 132 employees just for hanging in there.

2. How to get the biggest, most sensational CBA package even if you're seated on the wrong side of the negotiating table with the sun on your face.

3. Wields power of the semicolon.

4. Has plenty of room for caring.

5. Kids can go with mama and papa to the office.

6. Erap's IQ researched.

7. News content that's fast, furious, visual on Inq7.

8. Bite-sized, fast-food news also available on the run.

9. Continuing innovations without tears, without the price tags showing. They're just done.

10. Redesign by design.

11. To launch Project Big which means less is more (as in millions of pesos more).

12. Its lifestyle won't make it to the Lifestyle Section.

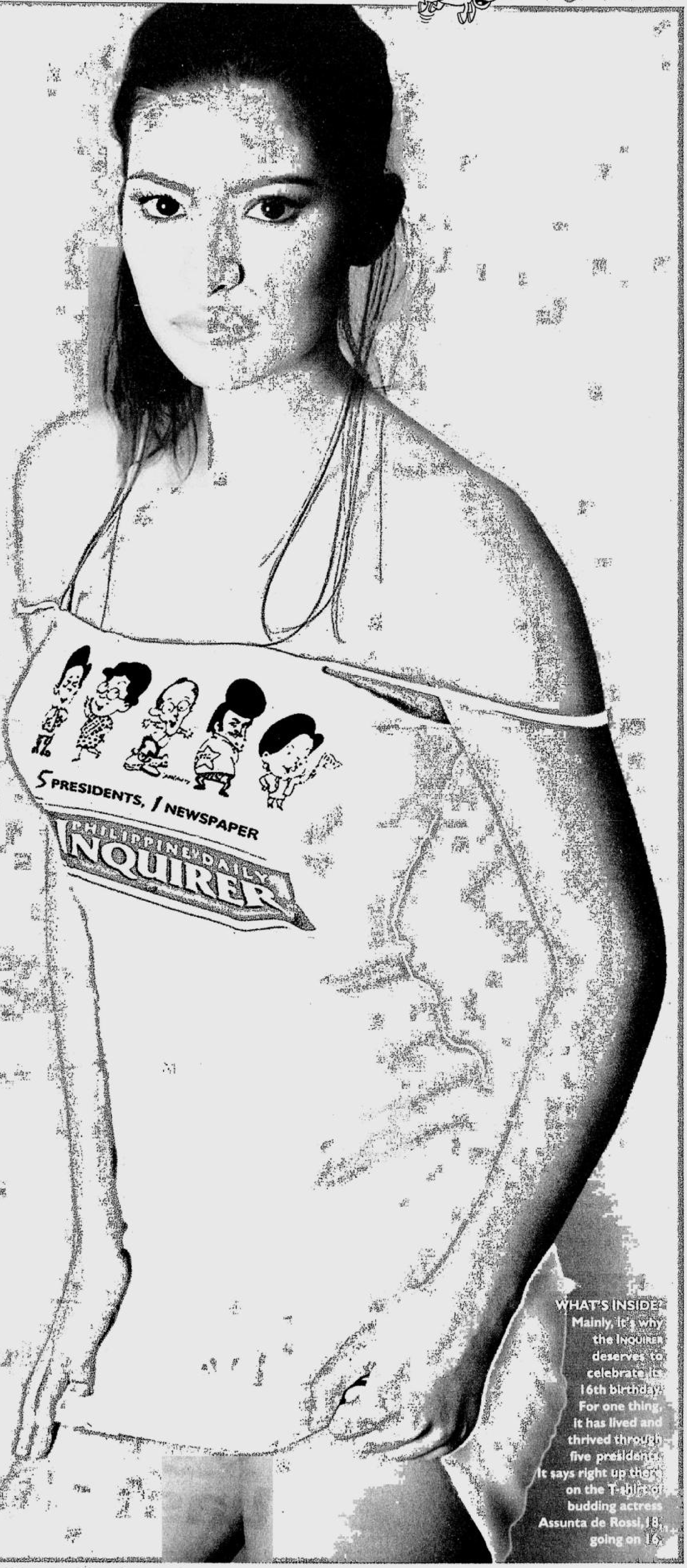
13. News is the passion; the operative word, exciting.

14. Have new kids on the block; will innovate (of course).

15. No Muggles work here; we believe in magic.

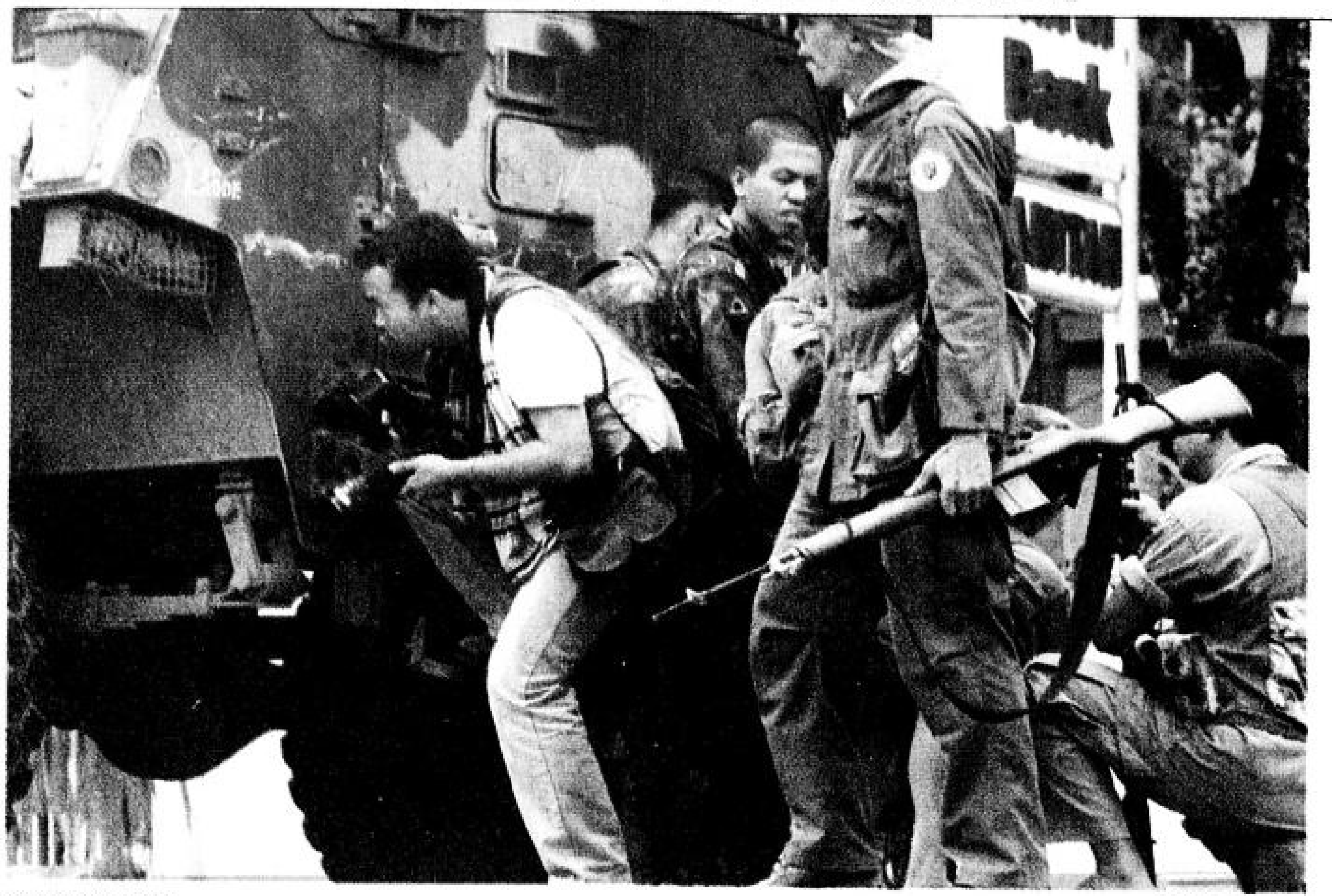
16. Our memory is full of gratitude: for the freedom, for the fun; to our readers, true believers, unbelievers, fans, critics, detractors, those who call this newspaper the enemy, those who bless it for being there. Thank you. Thank you. God bless.

— LJM



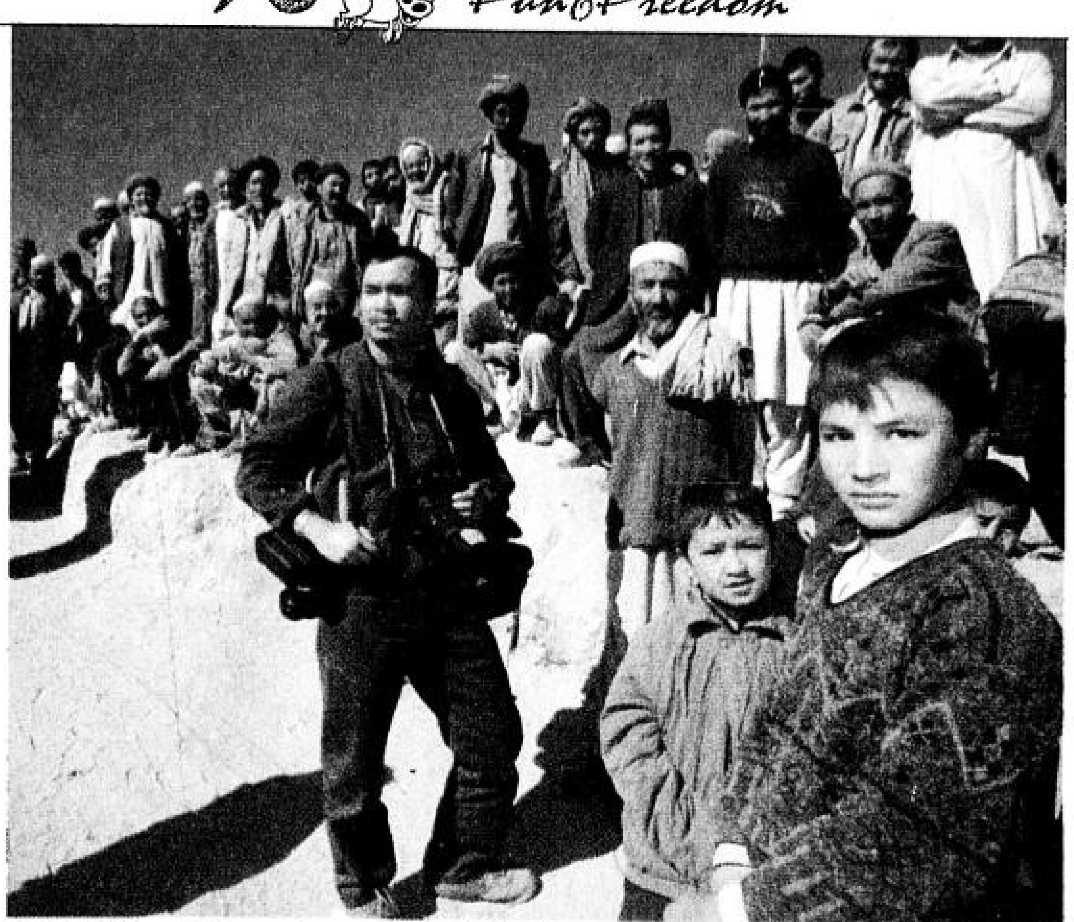
WHAT'S INSIDE: Mainly, it's why the INQUIRER deserves to celebrate its 16th birthday. For one thing, it has lived and thrived through five presidents. It says right up there on the T-shirt of budding actress Assunta de Rossi, 18, going on 16.

Photo illustration by **Ernie Sambo**; photographed by **Mandy Navasero.**



TAKING cover behind a Simba tank during a firefight between the military and the Abu Sayyaf in Lamitan, Basilan last June.

ROMY GACAD/AFP



DENNIS joins Afghan refugees at the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

JIMIN LAI/AFP

Snapshots from the edge

Robbed by Abus, Afghans

By Dennis Sabangan
(with Mylene Francisco)

I was assigned to go to Jolo. It was my first time.

A new culture. A new experience. I could learn much. I was excited. It's different from covering a beat in Manila. When you go to a different place, the culture is different, the images are different.

This was during the Sipadan hostage crisis where the Abu Sayyaf hostaged Westerners. This was the first time that Philippine negotiator Robert Aventajado was invited to visit the Abu Sayyaf camp to check the conditions of the hostages held for months. This was the opportunity I waited for.

There were about 200 journalists. *Utakan yon. Nagkasalaan yon.* I concentrated on the lead vehicle of the negotiator and grabbed a ride. In the end, there were only eight of us journalists lucky enough to have been allowed to enter the camp with Mr. Aventajado.

From Jolo, we had to take a two-hour trip to Talipao where hostages were held in the camp of the Abu Sayyaf. That is the only place I saw where there were Abu Sayyaf standing shoulder to shoulder on a 2-kilometer stretch of road. They were fully armed Abu Sayyaf on both sides on the road. M 14, Garand, bazookas. We were already nervous then.

One would have culture shock. Almost everyone had an M 14 in that place. That seems to be the culture there, the culture of the gun.

There was an armed encounter between the Abu Sayyaf and the military.

Twice, an M 14 was aimed at me. *Basta huwag ka lang papalag.* Huwag ka *magpakita ng fear sa kanila.* You should be able to look at them straight in the eye.

While we were walking toward the camp, the Abu Sayyaf held us up. No they didn't need to point their guns at us. We were nervous already. They took my hiking boots, wallet, watch, money. They took the other valuables of my fellow journalists. All of us were robbed. They took our shoes and gave us slippers in return. They were fully armed. We felt we didn't have a choice. Unless we wanted to risk our lives. They didn't have to point their guns at us.

But I tried not be be afraid. This is the psychology of war. You must not show fear. As a photographer, you look for the tension, too. Your adrenaline goes up. Your threshold for fear goes higher and higher.

Hostages angry

We finally saw the hostages. They looked tired. They were angry at the media. They said we kept coming back but nothing happened. We told them it was our job as media to provide coverage, to show others that they were held hostage. But it was the job of government to secure their release.

I was nervous, too. But tried not to show it. Anytime, the negotiations could break down. But I had a job to do. That is the burden I carry during moments like those. As photographers for the INQUIRER, we have to be able to get scoops. Shoot the photographs. How could we be the INQUIRER if we are not able to get the photographs we need? That is the trust and the burden I always feel. *Kailangan mayroon ang* INQUIRER, *na wala ang Philippine Star, ABS-CBN,* and others.

I was happy to get in the camp and photograph the hostages. But I was not too fulfilled. I wanted to stay in the camp longer, maybe for a month.

Yes, I worry too,about the repeated hostage-taking incidents. *Parang isang malaking palengke na pinagkakakitaan ng pera.* Mindanao is very beautiful. I was bothered by the poverty. But what struck me most was how many of the people there were brought up with arms. Because they hardly have any livelihood there. There are so many warlords there. So many people are armed. It seems, if you do not have a gun, you will be trampled upon.

Held up by Afghans

I left Manila for Karachi, Pakistan, on October 26. From Karachi, I moved to Quetta, near the border of Kandahar, in Afghanistan. I stayed there longer for about 3 weeks. That is where there is an influx of refugees. I hooked up with other Filipino journalists from ABS-CBN.

When I first got to Afghanistan, the tribes and most of the people there carried Kalashnikovs, AK 47 rifles. Even children had guns.

From Jalalabad, we planned to head for Kabul.We hired an L-300 vehicle. It was old and

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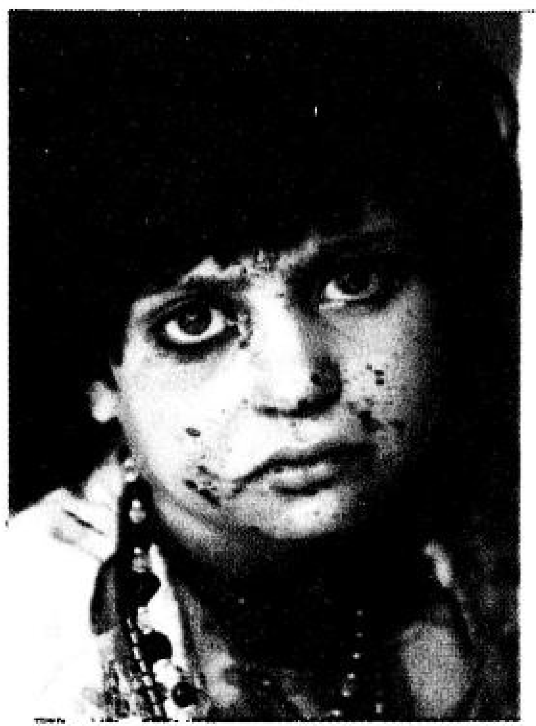

DENNIS M. SABANGAN

WOUNDS of the Afghanistan war: 7-year old Permina at a hospital in Pakistan.

rusty due to budget constraints. Its top speed was 5 kilometers per hour. The vehicle cost 1000 rupees a day. The driver was Pakistani. He spoke no English, and no Afghan language, Pashtun or Taglish.

We were told to drive along the asphalt on the border. If there were no trucks around, we were told to avoid the place as it was filled with land mines. We saw so much damage from all the wars. We saw the first chopper bombed by the Americans. We saw everything, including the runway entirely bombed.

On our way to Kabul, there were many armed checkpoints where we had to fork over cash. As we drove on, we saw an ambush position between Jalalabad and Kabul. This got us worried.

Suddenly four gunmen appeared. They were about 16 to 25 years old. The 5th person, their leader, was the oldest at 30. Being so young, they reminded me of the Abu Sayyaf.

They ordered us to come out of the vehicle. I suddenly saw images of my youth flash by me, as I felt my life was about to end. They cocked their Kalashnikov AK 47 rifles at us at close range. They robbed us of our valuables, wallets, watches, some camera equipment.

We were gripped by fear but tried not to show it. *Walang papalag*, we spoke to each other in Filipino. They repeatedly cocked their rifles toward us. I looked at them straight in the eye. Then they let us go. When I turned my back and headed for our vehicle, I was almost ready to feel the warm hit of a bullet.

When we realized we were free, we were all so happy and kept laughing at each other.

We finally got to Hotel Intercontinental in Kabul where about 400 foreign journalists stayed.

The day after, we learned of four Western journalists killed in the very area where we were held up. *Nagkagulo na ang mga* foreign journalists. *Nagtyakan na sila*, especially those from Reuters news agency, as they had lost two colleagues.

A total of eight persons from the media were killed in this Afghanistan war, mostly by plain bandits.

We felt lucky to be alive. We finally got to Kabul which was recently liberated from the Talibans. I was very happy to take many more photographs. I used up 250 rolls of film in my month's coverage of Afghanistan.

I will remember the images of the country damaged by twenty years of war. They were so poor. I will never forget the mud home that we visited. It had eight families in it, and they only had hot tea as their only meal for the day. I realized that even the poor in the Philippines were luckier than the poorest of the Afghans.

I will never forget the images. The smiling faces of the newly liberated women of Afghanistan, without their burqas. Children playing with kites, people watching TV, and listening to music. Men having their beards shaved off.

The fulfillment from my job comes from being exposed to the wealth of different cultures. The Afghans were very poor yet very wealthy by their culture. I remember the women dressed in orange and violet clothes in the desert.

The photograph that struck me most is the photo I had taken of this child named Permina from Kandahar. She was at the hospital in Quetta, Pakistan. Her two brothers were killed. Another brother lost his leg. Many civilians suffered during the war. I took the photograph as she sat on her bed. Her face had many wounds. I shot the photograph just as she looked straight at my eyes. Her green eyes struck me the most. To me, her wounded face best captured the image of Afghanistan's people suffering from the war.

Mom thinks I'm crazy

Sometimes I ask myself what kind of a job is this. I was held up by the Abu Sayyaf and now by the Afghans. I think of what other job I can take instead. But those are mere words. I have invested emotionally in this job. This is what I have chosen. I do not think I will switch to any other job.

During dangerous assignments, I never tell my mom beforehand. I just phone her from the place or country I am sent to. I worry, too, about my family, especially my mom. *Ang nanay ko ang nagagalit.* She thinks it is too dangerous, especially covering in Afghanistan. She thinks covering a war is 99 percent risk where one's life is at stake. She thinks I am crazy. But I try to explain to her that this is the vocation I have chosen. She seems to understand now. For me, being a photojournalist is one of the best jobs in the world.

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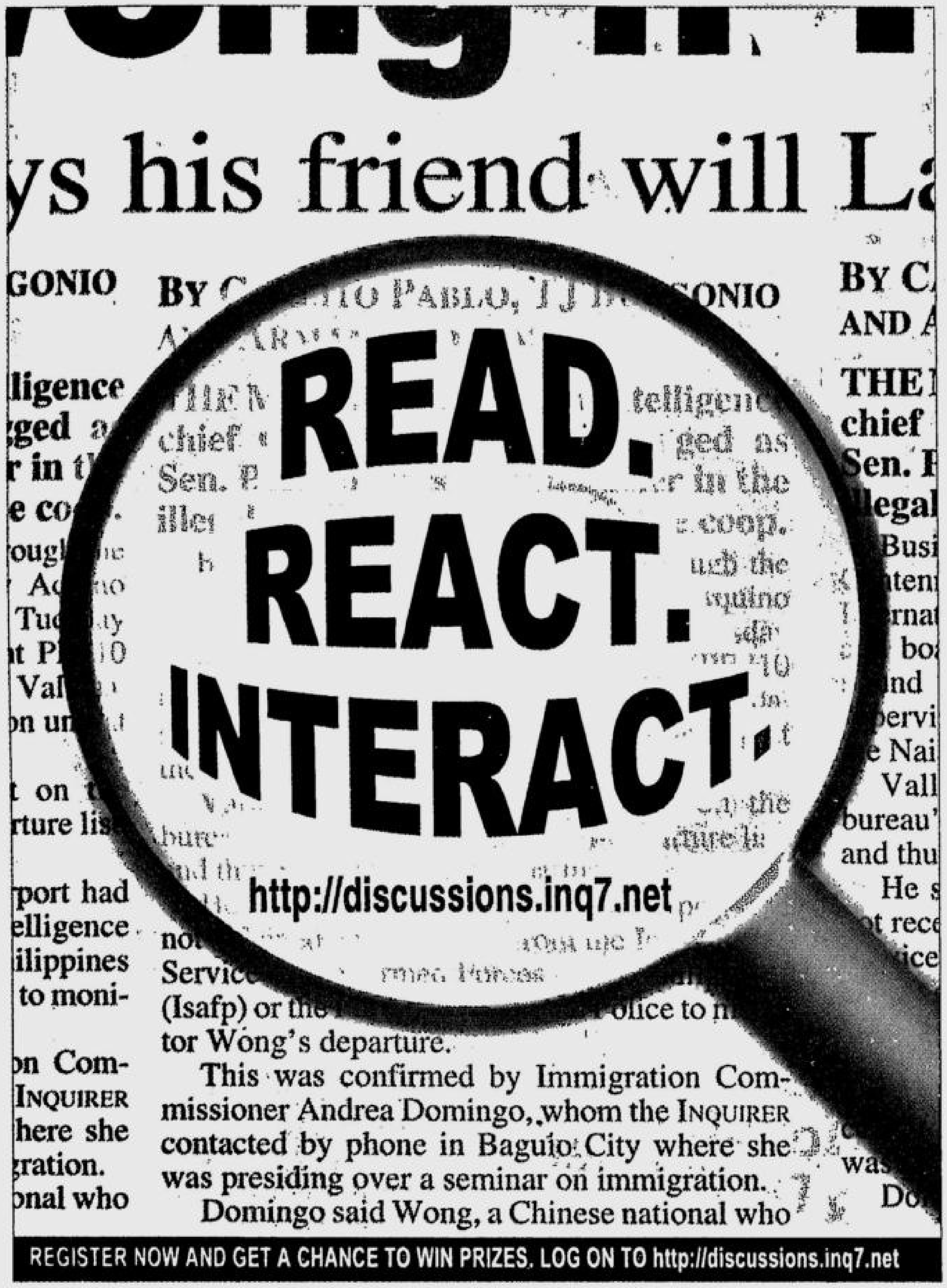

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I mean, actual letters to the editor . . .

By John Nery

(The author was hired only eight months ago as a newsdesk editor in charge of the Inquirer Investigative Reporting team and Talk of the Town section. He is also a member of the pool of editorial writers.)

HAVING worked my way through various small papers, I was struck right from the start by the sheer size of the INQUIRER operation. More copies sold per day, more pages per copy on the average, more reporters and photographers and editors.

But I'm getting ahead of myself. The true beginning took place a long time ago—years before I joined the country's leading newspaper in April.

Like most newspaper-reading Filipinos, I have had a relationship with the INQUIRER even without knowing it.

Of all Philippine newspaper headlines, for example, I remember best the one that is arguably the most historic. "It's all over; Marcos flees!" the INQUIRER famously trumpeted one unforgettable day in February 15 years ago.

Ramos cracks down on looters, criminals
Philippine Daily INQUIRER
It's all over; Marcos flees!

At the time that headline came out, I was holding down my first job as a substitute English teacher. Classes had been called off, or to be more precise, the classroom had shifted, from Loyola Heights to that stretch of Edsa between Santolan and Ortigas. In that enormous civics teach-in, the INQUIRER headline appeared like an end-of-term victory announcement. It not only captured the deliverance-from-a-nightmare mood on the streets; it even managed to sneak in a little lesson in subordinate clauses.

Power of semi-colons

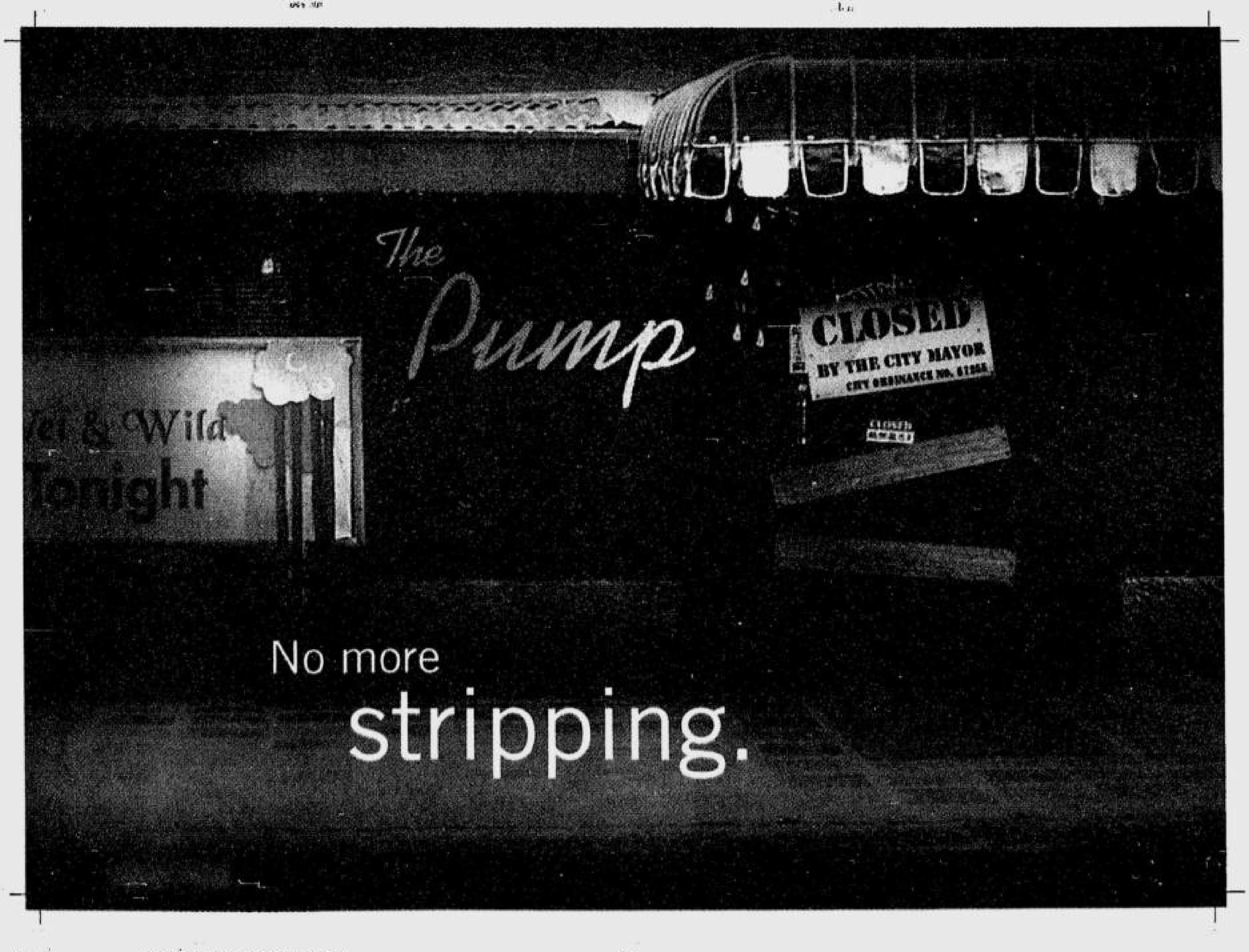
I do not mean to be facetious, but at the time I began teaching I was reading Chesterton, Belloc and Baring—three famous friends, all elegant writers, all fearless vanguards of a muscular Christianity—on the side. They provided me a schooling in the power of the semi-colon. Semi-colons, I discovered, are not for writers who are faint of heart, those who yield to the reader on every matter of interpretation. Semi-colons suggest a resolute authorial character, mustering thoughts like troops, marshalling their formation, preparing a plan of attack.

And there, wonderfully, in that famous headline, was one such semi-colon, bravely prioritizing effect ("It's all over") over cause ("Marcos flees").

There have been other such headlines or stories in the INQUIRER, faithfully reflecting one's concerns in particular stages of life. Let me cite just one more. In 1999, the President of the Philippines waged an undeclared war on the media. I happened to be on one particular front: the newspaper that an alleged corporate genius wittingly took over. (The INQUIRER, undergoing a Malacañang-inspired advertising boycott, was the other front.)

I remember writing a couple of editorials about the free press, and with the help of other journalists reaching what I thought was (for me, at least) a revelatory conclusion: that in this day and age the surest guarantee of a free press was a steady

IMEAN/G11



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What's Erap's IQ? *The story is in the details*

BY THE PDI RESEARCH

WHAT is the margin of error of a recent Pulse Asia survey? Which is correct: Hashim Salamat or Salamat Hashim? Is Cateel a municipality of Compostela Valley or Davao Oriental? Is it true Petronas is the tallest building in the world? Why is the inflation rate going down? What is the current balance of the coconut levy fund?

What's Joseph Estrada's IQ?

These questions had been asked not of a "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" contestant but of PDI Research.

As support staff of the INQUIRER Editorial Group, PDI researchers respond to the information needs of the editors, reporters, columnists and bureau correspondents. To answer and give information is a key task of the PDI Research. An equally important task to facilitate this is to gather and store information that would provide quick retrieval.

Since INQUIRER is in the details, it is a must for PDI Research to have a quick access for facts, spellings, definitions, statistics that add color to a report or validate facts in a report.

This has been done by bookmarking online references. These include Internet dictionaries, encyclopedias, gazettes, almanacs, glossaries, translators, archives of top foreign newspapers and newsmagazines and webpages of regular sources of government information.

On top of this, PDI Research also uses CD-ROM references and subscribes to online bases that would give real time figures of frequently asked statistics.

Just as in game shows, INQUIRER researchers are under pressure to give needed information within a given time limit. This year our self-imposed objective is to provide within 30 minutes needed information for the next day's issue or within 15 minutes from a given deadline for advance stories.

So far, PDI Research has been chalking a minimum of 95 percent deadline compliance. This is made possible mainly through the practice of CAR or computer-assisted research.

CAR is the gathering of data, storing, retrieving and packaging information either through reports or graphics using computers.

Generally, research uses secondary sources (made up of elements derived from something else) while reporting relies on primary sources to include interviews, observation or self-conducted computer analyses. We have used both secondary and primary sources to build our own data bases of reports, stories, surveys, statistics, profiles, timelines and graphics which can be searched using computers.

Online archive

For the past three years, a big project of PDI Research with the IT Group has been to convert PDI issues into digital format. The current PDI online archive which includes PDI stories from 1995 to date allows PDI researchers to quickly respond for requests for past stories in less than five minutes. The PDI archives even allows a researcher to retrieve an article in times when the request is "wrong" or not precise.

For instance, there was this request to retrieve a story on rose petals from St. Therese mentioning "New York Bishop Gerry Gocher." When we used the name of the bishop to search for the article, the result was negative. Another search was done using ''New York'' and ''bishop'' and ''St. Therese'' as search words. This time, the Dec. 12, 1999 article was found.

It turned out that the correct name is Auxiliary Bishop Guy Gaucher of the Diocese of Bayeux and Lisieux (not New York). But despite, the misspelled name, the retrieval was made because the PDI online archive is full text searchable (every word in an archived article can be used as a search word).

Information requests usually include filling in information gaps, validating initial information, and making backgrounders to beef up a story, prepare for interviews or develop a storyline.

Researchers are also often asked to prepare charts and graphs and provide information to Arts for their infographics. Graphics by PDI researchers are used as either part of a story like GNP, T-bills and inflation graphs in Business and page one stories or stand alone capsules called INQUIRER Monitor. And though, their main task is to provide information and materials to the INQUIRER's Editorial Group, it is not seldom that PDI researchers answer phoned in, emailed or postmarked questions from the public.

A visitor to the PDI Research was surprised that mainly only one staff, Maricar Tolosa, does the quarterly banking tables. She said that in another newspaper a group of researchers was mobilized to prepare them.

What she did not know was that aside from facilitating quick access and retrieval, CAR is helpful in analyzing large datasets, crunching numbers with spreadsheets and creating original databases.

A number of questions like whether Hashim Salamat is correct or not was resolved using a combination of computer-assisted research and the traditional interview of a resource person.

Since most of the PDI researchers are twenty-something (they don't have computer phobia), they have easily adapted to the different set of software, skills and knowledge required in CAR and can both use old and new methods of research.

Like an ensemble

Trained like an ensemble, each PDI researcher is capable of producing the regular products of PDI Research be it be Whatever Happened, a follow-up report of crimes and cases that have reached the courts; INQUIRER Monitor, a capsule of indicators and figures that matter in our nation's lives, daily SEC disclosures (a summary of disclosures made by listed companies), Weather Report (of key cities in the Philippines), They Said (selected quotations by newsmakers), daily stock and currency reports to INQ7 or the quarterly stock and banking tables.

Researchers also worked in tandem such that while one is the lead researcher, a partner is there to double check facts and figures.

Such that in the preparation of the Banking Quarterly tables, Maricar is the lead but Chona Galang, who regularly gets to do the data banking, is her partner who reviews with her line per line, the figures in the various quarterly tables.

The PDI researchers' training that stresses flexibility allows for Armin Adina, a relatively new researcher, to do the Whatever Happened reports, even if the law expert in the group is the Research Section supervisor, Michael Cucio.

Field work

Office-based CAR makes life simple for PDI researchers, but field work is often a challenge. Armin recently was to get materials at Camp Aguinaldo. But when he got there, the person who was supposed to give it to him was nowhere. Since the others had no idea about it, Armin was subjected to an interrogation. He was asked how did he get their names and how he learned that the information comes from them. After a series of calls and verification, Armin eventually got the materials he came for but he said, "It was a relief to step out of the Camp. I felt like a detainee being interrogated by the military."

Less sanguine field work experience is that of Ray Leyesa. A running joke among PDI researchers is how he succeeded in getting requested financial reports from the Securities and Exchange Commission along Edsa near Ortigas Avenue. Since, only a limited number of researchers are allowed in and many others would be in line, Ray beat the others by lining up as early as 6:30 a.m. He did this by going there literally straight from bed, without taking a bath and without breakfast.

Since he always got the SEC papers on time, the joke was Ray had to skip bathing a number of times. Ray swore that this happened only once or twice unlike the impression that it happened a lot of times.

Nonetheless, networking with the proper officials has made it unnecessary for Ray to wake up early. He has now been given access to the records without going through the queue.

Strongest link

The combination of computer-assisted research, traditional data gathering from the field and networking with sources of information have made it possible for PDI Research to build and maintain data bases and answer queries when needed.

But if you have a question, be warned if you ask a PDI Researcher. Far from a walking encyclopedia, the standard answer is, "I'll look that up."

Using computers, persistence, creativity or a combination of all three, a PDI researcher will come up with the answer or material before deadline. (The exceptions are few like the question of Estrada's IQ which was asked when it was reported that he has a high EQ).

After all, using computers or not, knowing where to look, who to ask and how to get the difficult data is PDI Research's strongest link.

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Ordinary people with a passion . . .

By Chelo Banal-Formoso
Lifestyle Editor

TOP of the world on Mt. Natib's peak in Bataan are members of the Inquirer's mountaineering club

CONTRARY to rumors, Inquirer folk are not witches and wizards schooled at Hogswart. We're neither extra-terrestrial nor anti-social. Don't believe such unkind labels from dour celebrities who feel alluded to in blind items that this respectable paper sometimes prints.

The truth is that the women and men who put out the Inquirer everyday are just like you—vulnerable to viruses biological or digital, addicted to game shows, given to going over their credit card limits, and ready for the good fight where it comes to what is important, what is meaningful.

The past 16 years of the Inquirer have been speckled with highlights, but if you think its people lead exciting lives and eat death threats for breakfast, you imagine too much. Some of us hardly have time for breakfast because we have to commute to Makati from as far south as Cavite, or as far north as Bulacan, or as far east as Binangonan.

SWINGING on a hanging bridge during a mountaineering trip is Joseph Jovellanos of Classifieds.

We take the MRT, the LRT, the bus, the cab, the jeepney, the tricyle—any public transport—to reach the PDI building on Chino Roces Avenue, the one painted an awesome-exterior kind of blue, a shade of blue that repels you at first but later grows on you.

A few of us drive to work in our Expeditions, Pajeros, BMWs, Stradas or Honda CRVs and to keep from getting bored while trapped in the traffic-choked streets of Manila we get on our Nokia 8310s and make Globe and Smart richer by the message, or the minute. But that's just a few lost souls. Mostly, we are ordinary commuters with ordinary cell phones.

Those who don't live so far away do get to sit down to our first meal of the day and read our favorite morning paper, which isn't the Daily Planet. News is the passion at the Inquirer. We cover it, shoot it, report it, edit it, print it, read it, surf it, watch it, smell it and breathe it.

With a click of the mouse we can access INQ7.net or The New York Times online. The newsroom TV set is tuned in to CNN and switched off-cable only in the evening for a succession of local news broadcasts. The PDI president is known to occasionally watch "Alas Singko y Medya" to check if the Inquirer front page is flashed onscreen. If not, she fidgets and frets in her Forbes Park home until she's able to phone someone and find out why. That's devotion to news for you.

Fortunately, it's not the happenings in the hard news section that are mirrored in the daily lives of Inquirer people. The secret to the Inquirer's broad appeal, the reason it's so mainstream, is that it is produced by people whose lifestyles reflect those of the communities we cover.

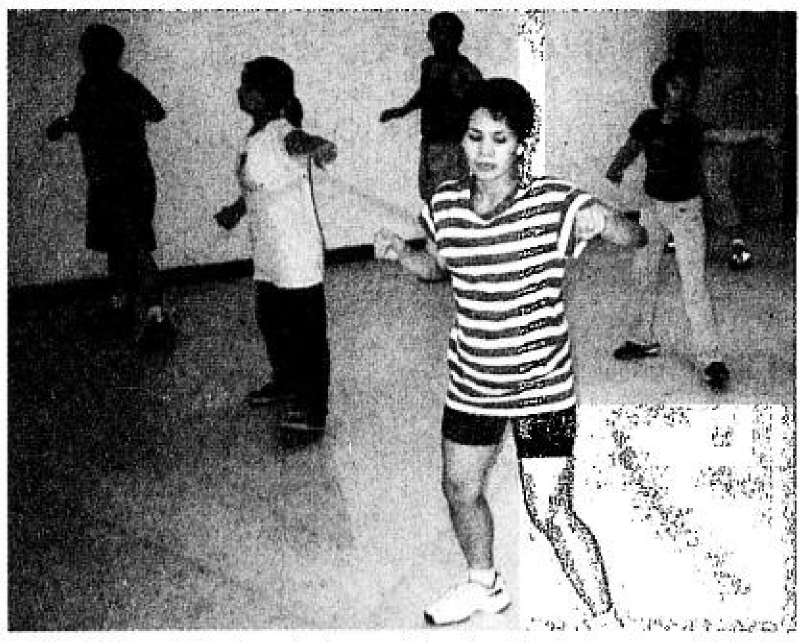
Little corners of Third World

We are a mixed crowd, of varying working ages and from different sectors of society. While some of us own homes in exclusive villages, others rent spaces in little corners of the Third World that will never make it to the Lifestyle section of this paper. We help keep the wet markets alive, but more often now we walk the two blocks to Shopwise to buy food and other supplies.

Once a week, we take the kids out to eat at fast-food places. On payday, we splurge a bit and go to a restaurant with sit-down service. Most days we scrimp and scrape at work, brown-bagging it or, forgetting to do that, ordering lunch (dinner for the night shift) from the *turo-turo* nearby, snacking on *taho* or *turon*, ever on red-alert for birthday treats or meetings with free food. The men go around carrying mugs with something that definitely doesn't smell or taste like coffee. Again, in the sense that we love to eat and make merry, our lifestyle is typical.

FLOWERS for the Virgin are offered by SVP for Corporate Services Dave Valdes and other employees during Flores de Mayo.

BUMP and grind go dancers Mercy Rosales, Vhon Montefrio and Gina Layague (with back to camera) during the Valentine's Day party.



TWISTING and turning, taebo participants (clockwise from left) Tess Samaniego, Belle Bondoc, Marge de la Vega, Che Moral and Anne Jambora and instructor John Cuaycong sweat it out twice a week.

Oh, but we are health conscious, too. We have a running club whose members have joined 10 running events this year, from the Takbo Para Sa Kalikasan in February to the Race Against Breast Cancer in October. The mountaineering squad scaled Mounts Batulao, Banahaw, Pulag, Tarak and Makiling this year, and who knows what greater heights they're determined to reach next year.

The physical fitness club organizes two sessions of taebo thrice a week for those with more pumped up energy levels, plus yoga once a week for the more sedate crowd, and ballroom dancing for those who want to put more *salsa* into their lives. Add the bowling and basketball tournaments sponsored by the Employee Services and Development Center and you have to wonder why there isn't a gym at the Inquirer yet.

This isn't to say that all Inquirer people are fitness buffs. Some of us think taking the stairs is workout enough. And there are those who'd rather engage in the arts and crafts, painting bottles, stringing beads, making candles, weaving baskets and the like. A club has been organized for them, too, just as there's one for those who are interested in photography and another for future and frustrated vocal divas. Club activities are scheduled after hours so you can get the paper without fail every morning, except of course, when the newsboy goofs off or on Good Friday and Black Saturday.

Aside from the obvious reason that there's hardly any news because all government offices and business are closed and almost everybody is out of town on Holy Week, we don't come out on Good Friday and Black Saturday because we are a company that believes in Christ as our Savior. So don't wonder why, if you come around the office on the first Friday afternoon of the month, there's a Mass going on.

Also not surprising is the general feeling among Inquirer employees that they have to be socially responsible. No less than chair Marixi R. Prieto joined the ad takers, IT specialists and other Inquirer workers in building a home for the Habitat for Humanity project. The company, through 2bU!, also just launched a reading program to lure teenagers to the joys of reading. Our employees are segregating waste as well.

Casual wear

Other days, however, we're irreverent as hell about many things in many ways. Newspaper people rarely take anything seriously, least of all their looks. Reporters and editors are usually casual dressers, sometimes too casual for comfort. Around the Inquirer, however, conventional dressing is more than less observed, although every other year the hot look at the Inquirer is maternity wear. When the women of reproductive age take a breather, a twist of individuality characterizes the fashion. The Inquirer is home to many fresh graduates who can get away with tank tops and tight trousers but to their credit they show up at work decently attired and thankful that they don't have to wear uniforms.

LIVING not by bread alone, employees attend Mass every first Friday of the month in the PDI building

Fashion is pretty much freewheeling here. Company president Sandy Prieto Romualdez favors the Mandarin look, editor-in-chief Letty Magsanoc rarely shows up in pants, home and fashion sub-editor Marge Enriquez sports body-hugging tops, PR Celine Madamba prefers corporate dressing, and business features editor Margie Quimpo-Espino gets away with ultra feminine ruffles. The rest of us, not exactly the Ladies who Lunch type, just come in clean clothes.

Pashminas may be passe elsewhere but Inquirer women are into shawls right now because the office is just too damn cold. On days when the Lifestyle section feels like a Siberian camp, 2bU columnist Tim Yap always threatens to wear his fur coat the next time. As for the other guys, they show up day in and day out in their long-sleeved shirts and, if they're executives, de riguer necktie. Clothes are never a big deal among men.

Hair is another non-issue at the Inquirer. There are guys in dire need of born-again hair and there is SIM's Ruel de Vera who sports as little hair as possible on purpose. Across the Nation editor Jun Bandayrel, the last hippie on the block, scared of being mistaken for a terrorist caved in recently and cut his long locks shortly before his

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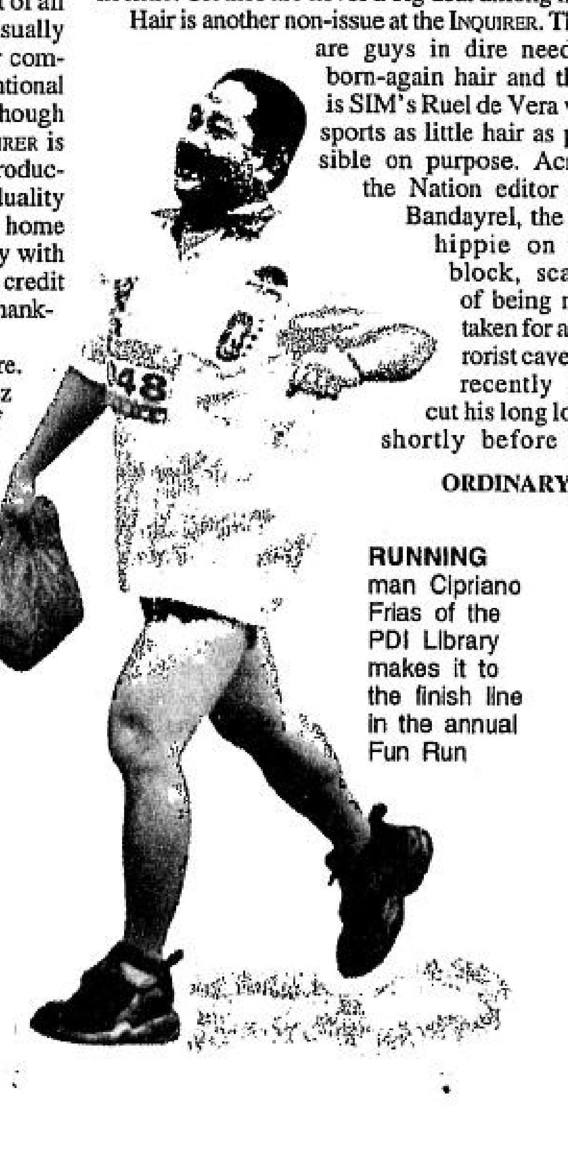

RUNNING man Cipriano Frias of the PDI Library makes it to the finish line in the annual Fun Run

FOR art's sake, PDI employees Chona Galang, Abbie Villaruz, Girlie Cuales and Jojo Samonte create in the arts and craft classes

STRESS busters attend yoga sessions once a week

CANCER awareness is discussed at the Employees Services and Development Center, with Dr. Diana Cua (center) as resource person.

BOWLED over by victory, bowlers led by Arthur Estrella celebrate victory with PDI president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez.

Ordinary people with a passion . . .

(From page G6)

flight to Canada.

Women's hair is infinitely more exciting to watch. MRP is always elegantly coifed. The Lifestyle editor beat pop icon Britney Spears to the "bed hair" look a good two decades by coming to work with hair that looks like it hasn't been combed since morning. Night editor Frankie Joaquin's tresses go past her derriere while SIM's Pennie Azarcon dela Cruz's hair is cropped really short. And no one has sported outrageously dyed hair since Mang Doming colored his red and Leah Salterio turned blond and everybody started calling her Taulava.

That's INQUIRER for you. Usually, we don't make a fuss about ourselves but now we have a good reason to—we're sweet sixteen.

KID stuff is explained at the art workshop for the children of INQUIRER staffers.

FINISH line trophy and cash prize is received by Fun Run winner Aries Espinosa from PDI chair Marixi Prieto and SVP Valdes.

SHOTS made by the Photography Club members catch the attention of PDI president Romualdez.

BEST foot forward is placed by Publisher Isagani Yambot for an osteoporosis check.

SKIN care lessons make the PDI women white-faced.

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6	02-15-86	Esplanada, Jerry E.
7	02-20-86	Tamanu, Romulo A.
8	02-21-86	Bojo, Jovino G.
9	02-22-86	Dela Vega, Margarita P.
10	03-01-86	Diaz, Lourdes C.
11	03-01-86	Lechadores, Patria M.
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13	03-03-86	Anicete, Hilario L.
14	03-03-86	Bergonia, Antonio S.
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18	03-04-86	Ramos, Jaime C.
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25	03-13-86	Cabuang, Renato M.
26	03-15-86	Galang, Felimon D.
27	03-15-86	Whitaker, Sonia T.
28	03-16-86	Gatdula, Arnold B.
29	03-16-86	Gregorio, Remedios A.
30	03-17-86	Escueta, Evelyn B.
31	03-17-86	Gomez, Chona R.
32	03-24-86	Andrade, Augusto N.
33	03-24-86	Valenzuela, Ramon L.
34	04-01-86	Canlas, Rebecca G.
35	04-03-86	Goyagoy, Pacita T.
36	04-10-86	Badocdoc, Genelito C.
37	04-13-86	Rabanal, Ricardo T.
38	04-17-86	Lirio, Gerry C.
39	04-21-86	Aclan, Margarito G.
40	04-26-86	Papio, Andres S. Jr.
41	04-28-86	Santos, Willie M.
42	05-05-86	Cruz, Reynaldo G.
43	05-12-86	Rivera, Carlito A.
44	05-14-86	Mañalac, Iñigo S.
45	05-26-86	Rivera, Nancy D.
46	05-26-86	Trinidad, Ricardo A.
47	06-03-86	Libre, Raul J.
48	06-06-86	Chanco, Manuel IV R.
49	06-16-86	Alterado, Nilo A.
50	06-18-86	Good, Belinda B.
51	06-23-86	Antonio, Fabian N.
52	06-30-86	Gatdula, Leah S.
53	06-30-86	Sabinay, Dominador J.
54	07-03-86	Paurom, Nilo B.
55	07-11-86	Tabinas, Rolando O.
56	07-24-86	Limbo, Imelda B.
57	07-25-86	Caliwan, Joselito B.
58	07-30-86	Garces, Rodante C.
59	08-01-86	Mendoza, Alfonso S.
60	08-06-86	Osorio, Virginia B.
61	08-09-86	Mallari, Marivic H.
62	08-09-86	Saladaga, Lucrecio M.
63	08-11-86	Arguel, Mary June R.
64	08-11-86	Diaz, Rogelio T.
65	08-11-86	Millare, Emelita R.
66	08-11-86	Perez, Celita E.
67	08-11-86	Rosales, Mercedes V.
68	08-26-86	Dela Vega, Luis III F.
69	08-27-86	Licayan, Ludivina C.
70	09-01-86	Margallo, Roger L.
71	09-01-86	Olarte, Felipe R.
72	09-09-86	Lardizabal, Gloria P.
73	09-15-86	Mangawang, Cesar D.
74	09-22-86	Langahin, Renato M.
75	09-29-86	Guevarra, Fernando P.
76	10-08-86	Baltazar, Vienvenido B.
77	10-11-86	Cristuta, Bobby C.
78	10-16-86	Espino, Margarita Q.
79	10-20-86	Pascual, Perlita G.
80	10-20-86	Villareal Jose H.
81	10-26-86	Reinoso, Renato R.
82	10-28-86	Lee, Restituto B.
83	12-09-86	Aguila, Francisco N.
84	12-11-86	Penales, Grace C.

10 years

1	04-03-91	Del Rosario, Benita D.
2	04-10-91	Marcelo, Raul O.
3	04-17-91	Reinoso, Samuel R.
4	05-14-91	Deloso, Bertoldo P.
5	06-19-91	Bandayrel, Pergentino B. Jr.
6	06-24-91	Chee Kee, Rafael L.
7	06-26-91	Delos Reyes, Mario D.
8	07-08-91	Marfil, Martin P.
9	07-15-91	Caruncho, Eric S.
10	08-13-91	Abad, Rolando O.
11	08-28-91	Ruiz, Jerry A.
12	09-01-91	Narisma, Socorro S.
13	10-21-91	Jovellanos, Joseph Bernard
14	10-29-91	Viray, Renato C. Jr.
15	12-02-91	Gomez, Raquel P.
16	12-16-91	Vasquez, Fernando D.

5 years

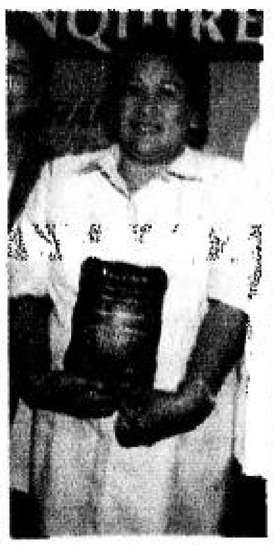
1	02-01-96	Abing, Carlito U.
2	02-12-96	Esturas, Raphael Sigmund O.
3	03-01-96	Lalicon, Liberty S.
4	04-12-96	Idjao, Adelle A.
5	04-12-96	Lorenzo, Jaime O.
6	04-17-96	Espinosa, Neyla T.
7	05-02-96	Camino, Luisito C.
8	06-03-96	Alconaba, Nestor A. Jr.
9	07-01-96	Bondoc, Josefina S.
10	07-01-96	Honasan, Alicia Yael B.
11	07-01-96	Robas, Sharon Wendy A.
12	07-16-96	Bordadora, Norman S.
13	07-22-96	Navarro, Noli T.
14	07-29-96	Delgado, Ma. Regina J.
15	08-19-96	Ambrosio, Francis P.
16	09-09-96	Navarro Felipe M. III
17	09-16-96	Gaylican, Christine A.
18	09-16-96	Salazar, Marlet D.
19	10-14-96	Bacani, Luisito Jr. T.
20	10-15-96	Galimba, Arnold S.
21	10-15-96	Lagman, Genie L.
22	10-24-96	Dumlao, Ma. Cristina A.
23	11-05-96	Cuya, Vladimir B.
24	11-10-96	Solon, Concepcion F.
25	11-11-96	Batino, Ma. Clarissa S.
26	11-15-96	Fernandez, Melanio D.
27	11-15-96	Jano, Gerry S.
28	11-16-96	Handumon, Valeriano T.
29	11-20-96	Moral, Ma. Rachelle V.
30	11-22-96	Villapando, Gemma G.
31	11-25-96	Jambora, Anna Marie A.
32	11-25-96	Rivera, Raymond T.

DOMINADOR "Amo" Sabinay, 15 years

LOURDES "Lulu " S. dela Cruz, 15 years

RENATO "Cabu" M. Cabuang, 15 years

LUCRECIO "Cris" Saladaga, 15 years


LIWAYWAY "Liway" Tabaranza, 15 years

LOURDES "Mother" Diaz, 15 years

EDUARDO "Paddy" Guevarra, 15 years

Awarded for toughing it out

EMPLOYEES who have rendered five years of service and up were accorded special recognition at the Manila Polo Club with the INQUIRER board chair, Marixi R. Prieto, and president, Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez, giving out plaques, gift checks and Cross ballpens. But the gifts and the good food mattered less than the gift of the top officials' manifest appreciation of the employees' loyalty to the company. For 15 years of service, 84 employees were awarded; for 10 years, 16 employees and 32 for five years.

Ms Prieto in her remarks emphasized how the INQUIRER considers its human resources as its most valuable asset. Ms Romualdez reaffirmed the values that make the INQUIRER the INQUIRER, thanks to its people.

Renato R. Reinoso, Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing, who was recognized for his 15 years at the INQUIRER, gave the response on behalf of the service awardees.

Chito San Mateo

PDI president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, Grace C. Penales, 15 years, INQUIRER chair Marixi Prieto and publisher Isagani Yambot.

FOR THE BOYS. Recah Trinidad, Nilo Paurom, Rey Fetalvero and Arnold Galimba.

RAUL O. Marcelo, 10 years

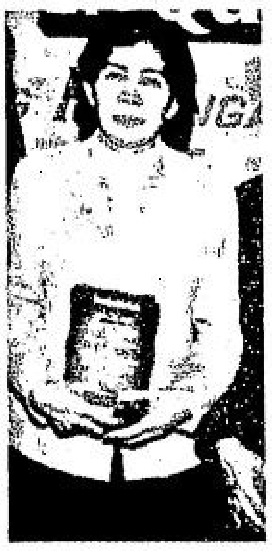
VIRGINIA "Gigi" Osorio, 15 years

BENITA "Nitz" del Rosario, 10 years

SAMUEL "Sammy" Reinoso, 10 years

THE BOSSES. Rene Reinoso, SVP for Sales and Marketing, Marixi Prieto, PDI chair, Pergentino "Jun" Bandayrel, 10 years, Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc, editor in chief, Dave Valdes, SVP for Corporate Services.

ROGER L. Margallo, 15 years


GLORIA P. Lardizabal, AVP for Circulation, 15 years

JOSE H. Villareal, AVP for Finance, 15 years

LADIES IN RED. Sandy P. Romualdez, president, Mercedes V. Rosales, 15 years and Marixi Prieto, chair.

CARLITO U. Abing, 5 years and Marixi Prieto and Sandy Romualdez.

VALERIANO "Val" Handumon, 5 years

ROLANDO "Rolly" Abad, 10 years

JOSE "Pete" Santiago, 15 years

JAIME C. Ramos, 15 years

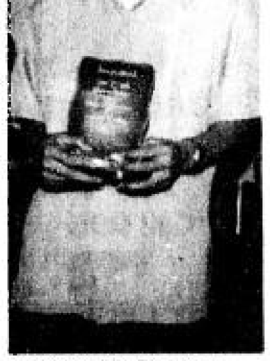
NANCY D. Rivera, 15 years

RAMON L. Valenzuela, 15 years

RICARDO "Ricky" Rabanal, 15 years

WILLIE M. Santos, 15 years

CHONA R. Gomez, 15 years


ROGELIO T. Diaz, 15 years

This is your space, your moment, baby

BY ARIES ESPINOSA

The first in the media industry, the Day Care Room was the dream of the PDI president

IT HAPPENS all the time when you bring your kids to the office. Here you are busy sorting out forms, keeping important accounting numbers in mind, then suddenly you hear a loud crash from the other side of the cubicle.

The kids!

And then you rush to Ground Zero and find your grumpy old boss' favorite mug, the one he's been using since day one 20 years ago, broken like a Humpty Dumpty who just had a great fall.

The rest of the day is now spent picking up the shattered pieces of someone else's valuable property and appeasing your boss. Valuable working time has been lost. Your promotion is in jeopardy. And your kids are at the next room toying with the shredder.

The shredder!

Working parents who bring their children to work often have no choice. They know children and the office don't mix. The little ones just can't stay put. If you leave them to themselves for too long, chances are something bad will happen. If you pay too much attention to them, you won't get any work done. And if the caregiver (*yaya*) is indisposed today, you're in double trouble.

No, it hasn't banned its employees' children from entering the premises. On the contrary, the INQUIRER has created a place specially designed for children.

On Dec. 4, the Day Care Room at the 4th floor of the INQUIRER building was formally opened. The Day Care Room boasts of complete facilities, such as a mini-sofa, a TV and a VCD player, a mini-refrigerator, a wash room, storage cabinets and a small-size sink. It can accommodate up to 10 children at one time, and is supervised by caregivers trained by the National Diaconal Agency, a church-based NGO involved in different social services, sectoral and community organizing. The agency is registered with the Securities and exchange Commission.

First of its kind

TO LUCA, with love. Mom Sandy Prieto-Romualdez plays with firstborn.

ROMPER room comes alive with the sight and sounds of children.

The INQUIRER Day Care Room is considered the first of its kind in the print media industry, wherein the organization itself provides an in-house day care center for children of its employees and dependents.

"The INQUIRER recognizes the occasional problems of its employees who are parents on balancing the demands of the job and the need to personally attend to their children. The Day Care Room is designed to address these problems and provide child-minding benefits," INQUIRER Human Resources Manager Jesse Rebustillo explains.

The idea for a day care center in the INQUIRER started a couple of years back when its president, Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, saw an employee's child loitering around the corridors during office hours.

"It has been my dream, even before having a child of my own, for the INQUIRER to have a place for children of employees. Now, finally, here it is," Prieto-Romualdez enthused during the formal opening of the Day Care Room. She brought along her one-year-old son Luis Carlos Antonio "Luca" Prieto-Romualdez.

The task of developing and implementing the Day Care Room was given to the INQUIRER Employees Services and Development Center, headed by Rachel Isip-Cucio, itself an industry first in the multifaceted overall employee development.

"Planning for the Day Care Room was not easy," INQUIRER SVP for Corporate Services Dave Valdes said during the formal inauguration. "We had to carefully consider every aspect of venue. It is, after all, our children that we are going to entrust to the Day Care Room."

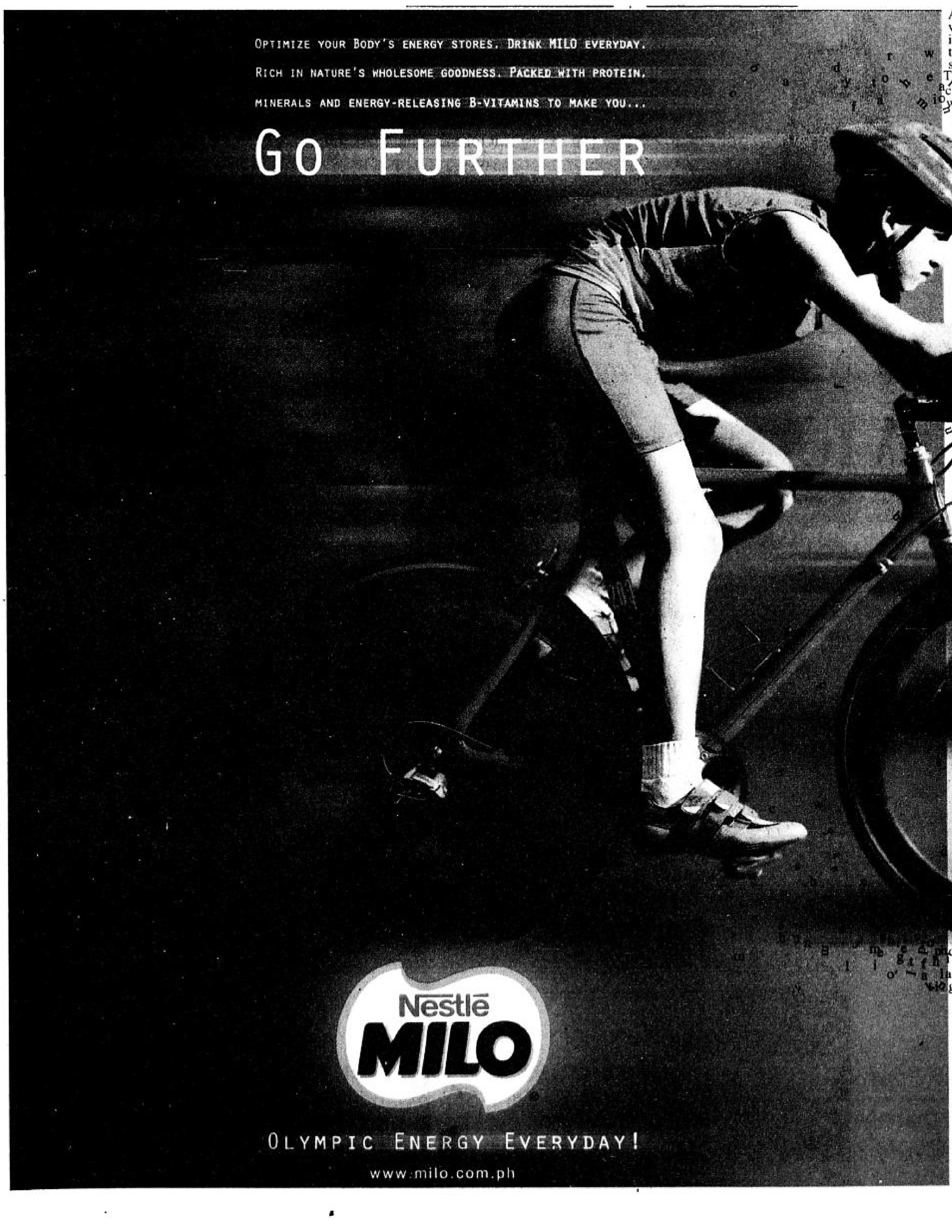
From 4 months to 10 years old

The Day Care Room is now available to employees' children and dependents 4 months to 10 years old. Admission time is from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. The room is open from Mondays to Fridays, and employees may bring their kids/dependents for up to 60 working days annually.

Aside from complete facilities, the INQUIRER Day Care Room also provides program materials for children's activities such as indoor play, arts and crafts appreciation, music appreciation, storytelling and construction/building.

About 20 employees and their children attended the formal opening and blessing of the Day Care Room hosted by Chito San Mateo. "*Parang gusto ko na ring magkaanak, meron nang paglalagyan ang mga bata sa* INQUIRER (I want to have my own kids, now that the Inquirer has a place for them)," an unmarried employee remarked in jest.

The opening of the Day Care Room is part of the week-long INQUIRER anniversary celebrations, which culminated with an anniversary party-cum-dance-cum-concert on the night of Dec. 8.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Active child needs more b vitamins.Playing, whether it's for sports or just for fun, takes a lot of energy. And so does physical growth. That's why growing children, especially those who are very active need

body's oxygen at a level that promotes the release of energy. Pantothenic acid is essential in the metabolism of protein, fat, and carbohydrates for the release of energy. Why do active children needs more

need extra energy. They can get this from food rich in protein, fat, and carbohydrates energy from these nutrients, they need vitamins. Vitamin b1 (thiamin), b2 (riboflavin), b12 (cobalamin) and pantothenic acid all play important roles in performance. Vitamin b12 helps keep cells in the circulatory, nervous, and digestive systems in good working condition. It is process of releasing energy from food. Vitamins b1

important roles in the process of releasing energy from food. Vitamins b1 helps the body release energy from carbohydrates during metabolism. It also promotes growth and muscle tone. Vitamin b2 helps the body release energy from protein, fat, and carbohydrates during metabolism. It also helps improve athletic performance. Vitamin b12 helps keep cells in the

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'The best things in life are Libre'

Libre
10
'Iwas paputok'

BY ABELARDO S. ULANDAY

OW, talaga? (Really?)

Naku ha, baka gimmick lang ito. (This could be a gimmick.)

Libre? You're really giving this away?

Aba, okay 'to!

These were some of the reactions from passengers of the Light Rail Transit and MetroStar commuter trains on the morning of Nov. 19. That was the day they finally got to see and get a copy of INQUIRER Libre, the latest "baby" of the INQUIRER.

A week before that day, posters sprung up on key LRT and MRT stations about a "Libre" thing and many passengers wondered what it was all about. Some of those who had read the posters thought they'd get free rides beginning Nov. 19. But for what reason, they didn't know. So, most of them were surprised to find it was not a free ride after all, but a free newspaper. And they'd get it every morning from Monday to Friday.

Why free?

Why not?

Free newspapers are the hottest trend in the publishing industry today. The concept started in Stockholm, Sweden, about two years ago and has since caught on with several publishers and publishing companies worldwide.

At present, there are free newspapers in other European countries, with Great Britain's Metro claiming to be the biggest free newspaper in the world. With a circulation of more than 800,000, Metro is now the 6th largest newspaper in the United Kingdom. Not bad for a "freebie."

Other free newspapers can be found in the United States and in South America. In Asia, Singapore boasts of two competing free newspapers, each with a daily circulation of over 200,000. This makes INQUIRER Libre the second free newspaper to be distributed in Asia.

Okay, but will it catch on here?

We hope and pray it will—for two main reasons.

The INQUIRER wants to reach out to more readers. While it has maintained its leadership among broadsheets in terms of circulation and readership, there's still a big portion of the public out there who needs to be informed. These people read newspapers, too, but not on a regular basis. Most of them watch TV, others listen to radio, and some, mostly students or young professionals, surf the Internet for news and other information. In other words they don't read.

Since most of the people who comprise this portion of the "readership pie" are more concerned about work and other activities, they seldom find the time to read newspapers or other reading materials regularly.

This finding brings us to the second reason.

Recent studies show that there's a continuing decline in the reading habit precisely because of time constraints and concerns on how to cope with daily pressures.

The economy, too, has contributed a great deal. Many would-be readers would rather buy food than newspapers. But INQUIRER study has shown, most of them would be glad to take a glance at newspapers available in offices, in school libraries, in the homes of neighbors.

So, there's a market out there waiting and willing to be seduced.

Enter INQUIRER Libre.

It is a tabloid in format that contains news and other information, including juicy items in the entertainment world, as well as the latest in sports and lifestyle.

THE "FREEBIE" STAFF (counterclockwise): Editor in Chief Abel Ulanday, Teddyvic Melendres, Chito de la Vega, Robelyn Reyes, Deo Roberto, Noli Navarro, Louie Bacani, Ritche Sabado, Adelle Idjao, Vlady Cuya and Romel Lalata.

It also features advice columns, how-to tips, and consumer concerns. Most of the articles and stories are written in crisp, short style—long enough for readers, such as passengers of LRT and MRT, to digest in as short a time as possible. Read and run.

So there you are. Libre aims to inculcate the reading habit among more people.

Of course, Libre will have to rely on advertising to continue serving the needs of its target readers. But it doesn't hope to become a sort of an advertising brochure just to survive. Its primary aim is to get people to read, and read regularly.

This is the reason why Libre is bilingual. More and more people get comfortable conversing in Taglish—a combination of Tagalog and English words. The combination has spawned a whole new volume of terms and lingo covering sex and gender. Libre aims to use what is acceptable and decent. There will be articles written in English; others will be in Filipino. Some of them will be in Taglish.

When we take the LRT or MRT in the morning and see the passengers reading Libre, we are delighted to see part of our vision become a reality. It would give us greater pleasure to see these readers share them with their officemates, classmates, colleagues, friends, and members of the family and household.

One passenger who e-mailed us said he was glad to have Libre on board MRT and LRT coaches. It has given him something to do on his way to work.

Why then limit its distribution to LRT and MRT?

At the moment, this mode of public transportation provides a sizeable audience through which the impact and usefulness of a publication such as Libre can easily be measured. Once it proves to be successful, who knows what other distribution points would be next in line.

But for now, go ride the MRT and LRT to get a copy of Libre. You'll find our tagline "The best things in life are Libre" is simply true.

I mean actual letters to the editor . . .

(From page G4)

and independent revenue stream.

It taught me the necessary connection between commerce and freedom. Raymond Aron's engaging memoirs provided the motive force, but it was the ad boycott that struck the INQUIRER that drove the point home. And to think that, for the small paper I was with then and which taught me much of what I know now, profit was at best hypothetical.

'Few but fit'

In other papers I worked for, even readership was at times theoretical. True, there were readers in Stendhal's sense: few but fit. But as chief of reporters and then as city editor, I had helped put together news stories, even entire series, that were met with, shall we say, a generous silence. The words from Cummings' famous poem often came to mind, with an ironic resonance: Nobody, not even the rain, had such small hands.

But in the INQUIRER, readers are very much a part of the editorial and business cycle.

One of my favorite things is dawdling by the letters in-boxes, where the hundreds of letters that flow into the newsroom are channeled into smaller streams before being released again to fill the newsroom.

Not just press releases

I am not talking of mere press statements and news releases; I mean actual letters to the editor, still quite a number of them typewritten, many of them patent with public issues, all vigorously exercising a citizen's freedom of speech. The e-mail letters, for the Talk of the Town section I edit, come a close second—not yet in quantity, but in the quality of the discussion.

The INQUIRER also has its own Reader's Advocate, an experiment in reader-friendliness (if you will excuse the awkward term) that is clearing the path for other newspapers in the Philippines. Geneva Overholser the column isn't yet, but it is on its way.

Attentive to readers

This attentiveness to readers is mirrored in the newspaper's business side. Those who labor on the editorial side of the vineyard often take little note of the workers on the business side.

But if I am pressed to state for the record the one thing that impresses me the most about the INQUIRER, it is its distribution reach. The ink-stained may take it for granted, but landing a prominent place in tomorrow's newspaper stand is also a creative achievement, a feat of imagination and derring-do.

A close second to distribution reach is pioneering spirit. We are the country's leading newspaper, and I must confess that at certain moments I get the impression that we are laboring under the wages of success.

Electric charge

But there are far more occasions when the pioneering spirit that has always distinguished the newspaper surges through the ranks like an electric charge. This has allowed the INQUIRER to continue to be open to new products and new markets. This has also enabled us to publish editorial that is a cut above the rest.

My favorite front page since joining the newspaper illustrates this truth to a remarkable degree.

"Terrorists strike US," the Sept.12 issue declared, against a half-page photograph of the New York harbor—the Statue of Liberty in the foreground, the twin towers unlikely smokestacks for a post-industrial, post-Sept. 11 age. That issue carried the most comprehensive round-up of the terror strikes available in the Philippines—in spite of the horror unfolding on cable at the exact time the newspaper was being put to bed.

The complete revamp of the front page took only an hour, more or less, but that night—as on countless other nights—the newsroom was pumped full of pioneering, let's-get-this-better-than-anyone-else spirit.

We did, too.

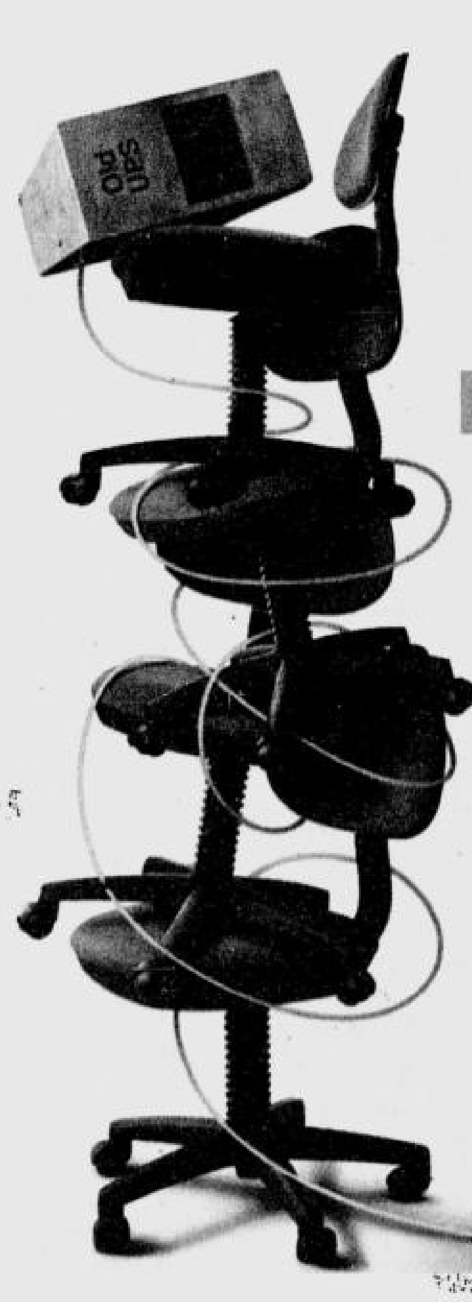
TRIVIA 2001

By Nancy Carvajal

Who is the winningest person in the editorial? **Managing editor Joey Nolasco who bets on a winning horse almost everyday.**

What is the most discussed weekly report in the editorial? **The Hidalgo report. Tony Hidalgo has been commissioned to assess the weekly grammatical lapses of the paper.**

How many awardees on PDI's 16th anniversary ? **183. Each awardee received a plaque, a ring and gift certificate.**



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A brief history of the way we were

BY PDI RESEARCH

DEC. 9, 1985. First issue of the INQUIRER; put out by a 40-person staff in a 100-square meter newsroom; Louie Beltran is editor in chief. Founding chair is Eugenia Duran-Apostol; vice chair, Betty Go-Belmonte.

DEC, 10, 1985. Jess Abrera's A. Lipin debuts as the Inquirer's first cartoon. Abrera wins the first award for the INQUIRER, the 1987 Best Humor in Cartoon from the Catholic Mass Media Awards.

JAN. 24, 1986. "Balanced News, Fearless Views" becomes the rallying cry and challenge for the staff. The P3,000 prize money for the INQUIRER slogan contest which drew 27,000 entries is split by Palanca awardee Jesus S.M. Dimapilis of Bliss, Diliman, Quezon City and marketing practitioner Robert M. Friedlander of BF Resort Village, Las Piñas, City.

FEB. 26, 1986. It is one of the two major alternative papers that banner the flight of the Marcoses.

MARCH 9, 1986. The Sunday Inquirer Magazine's first issue with Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc as editor in chief and with newly installed President Corazon Aquino and Ninoy Aquino on the cover hits the newstands.

FEB. 13, 1987. The Philippine Daily Inquirer Employees Union (PDIEU) is organized. It wins a month later, on March 27, 1987, the certification election, making it the sole, legal bargaining agent for all rank and file employees of PDI.

APRIL 1987. INQUIRER employees receive their first profit share at P750 per employee. The biggest profit share to date is P106,000 for fiscal year 1997.

JULY 10, 1987. After a month of marathon talks, PDIEU inks a 3-year Collective Bargaining Agreement with management. The P18-million package, the first INQUIRER CBA, has served as a model for other newspaper unions.

JULY 28, 1990. The PDI overtakes the lead of another daily to become the country's biggest circulated broadsheet with an average net paid circulation of 200,759, according to a circulation audit conducted by SGV for the Print Media Audit Council.

OCT. 3, 1990. The PDI wins recognition for its excellence in news reporting by sweeping the Jaime V. Ongpin Award for Investigative Reporting. Danny Pettila's "Samar in Agony" (PDI August 21 to 25, 1989) wins top honors for his sensitive portrayal of the crisis affecting the people of Samar.

JUNE 14, 1991. Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc, then associate publisher and columnist, is appointed editor-in-chief, vice Federico Pascual.

AUGUST 1991. PDI opens its first bureau, the Visayas Bureau, in Cebu City with seven regular correspondents.

JUNE 1992. PDI's Mindanao Bureau is set up in Davao City with 14 correspondents; Carolyn Arguillas is Bureau chief.

SEPTEMBER 1992. The Northern Luzon Bureau is in place with Rolly Fernandez as a one-man team in time for its big story, the Marcos burial in Batac, Ilocos Norte.

JAN. 26, 1994. Marixi M. Prieto becomes the board chair at the retirement of Eugenia Duran-Apostol, the INQUIRER's founding chair.

FEB. 4, 1994. Isagani Yambot is appointed publisher by the board of directors.

JAN. 5, 1995. The INQUIRER's new building on Chino Roces Street corner Yague and Mascardo Streets becomes the corporate headquarters and editorial offices of the INQUIRER.

OCT. 7, 1995. The maiden issue of Junior Inquirer, the winner of this year's Unesco award for best children newsmagazine is off the press.

JULY 6, 1996. Guyito appears as mascot of the Junior Inquirer.

MARCH 1997. PDI's Southern Luzon Bureau based in Legaspi City becomes the fourth bureau of the INQUIRER.

OCT. 1, 1997. INQUIRER goes online at http.www.inquirer.net

OCTOBER 1997. PDI's IT Group led by Gary Libby completes the conversion from manual stripping to computerized page lay-outing, marking almost 90 percent computerization.

APRIL 29, 1998. Alexandra "Sandy" R. Prieto is named president of the INQUIRER after the retirement of Bienvenido M. Pangilinan.

JUNE 12, 1998. PDI comes out with a colored PDI front page in time for the Centennial of Philippine independence.

NOVEMBER 1998. Copies of PDI are printed in Cebu City, to become the first Metro-based newspaper to be printed outside Metro Manila through remote or satellite printing.

JULY 1999. An ad boycott led by movie producers hits the INQUIRER. Reported to be due to a request by then President Joseph Estrada, the boycott lasted for five months, a first in Philippine journalism history. The need to uphold press freedom was one of the key issues raised during a massive August 1999 multi-sectoral rally in Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

FEB. 27, 2000. INQUIRER Interactive, a joint venture of PDI and GMA-7 is launched with President Macapagal-Arroyo as guest of honor.

JULY 2000. PDI editor in chief Magsanoc receives double accolade: a citation by the international magazine BusinessWeek as one of 50 Asians at the forefront of change and the year's Marcelo H. Del Pilar Journalism Awardee for Print by the Rotary Club of Manila.

FEB. 22, 2001. PDI copies are printed in Davao and hit the newstands in the cities in Mindanao on the same day and same hour as the paper comes out in Metro Manila.

OCT. 24, 2001. The INQUIRER is cited by the Catholic Mass Media Awards for Best News Coverage of People Power II, the 145th award and citation given to PDI reporters, editors, correspondents and officers.

NOV. 19, 2001. Maiden issue of Inquirer Libre is distributed to Metro Rail Transit and Light Rail Transit commuters.

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December 8/ 4pm
2/L Covered Parking

The Philharmonic in Jeans - Concert Mall Series
Dec. 15, Saturday
4pm - 5 pm
2/L Carousel Court
Presented by Guess? USA

The Magical World of Nestlé Ice Cream
A musical play featuring clowns, magicians, puppet shows, plus exciting games with prizes.
Dec. 20, Thurs.
2/L Carousel Court

Grand Draw of The Philippine STAR's Dream Lifestyles Raffle Promo
Dec. 21, Friday
2/L Carousel Court

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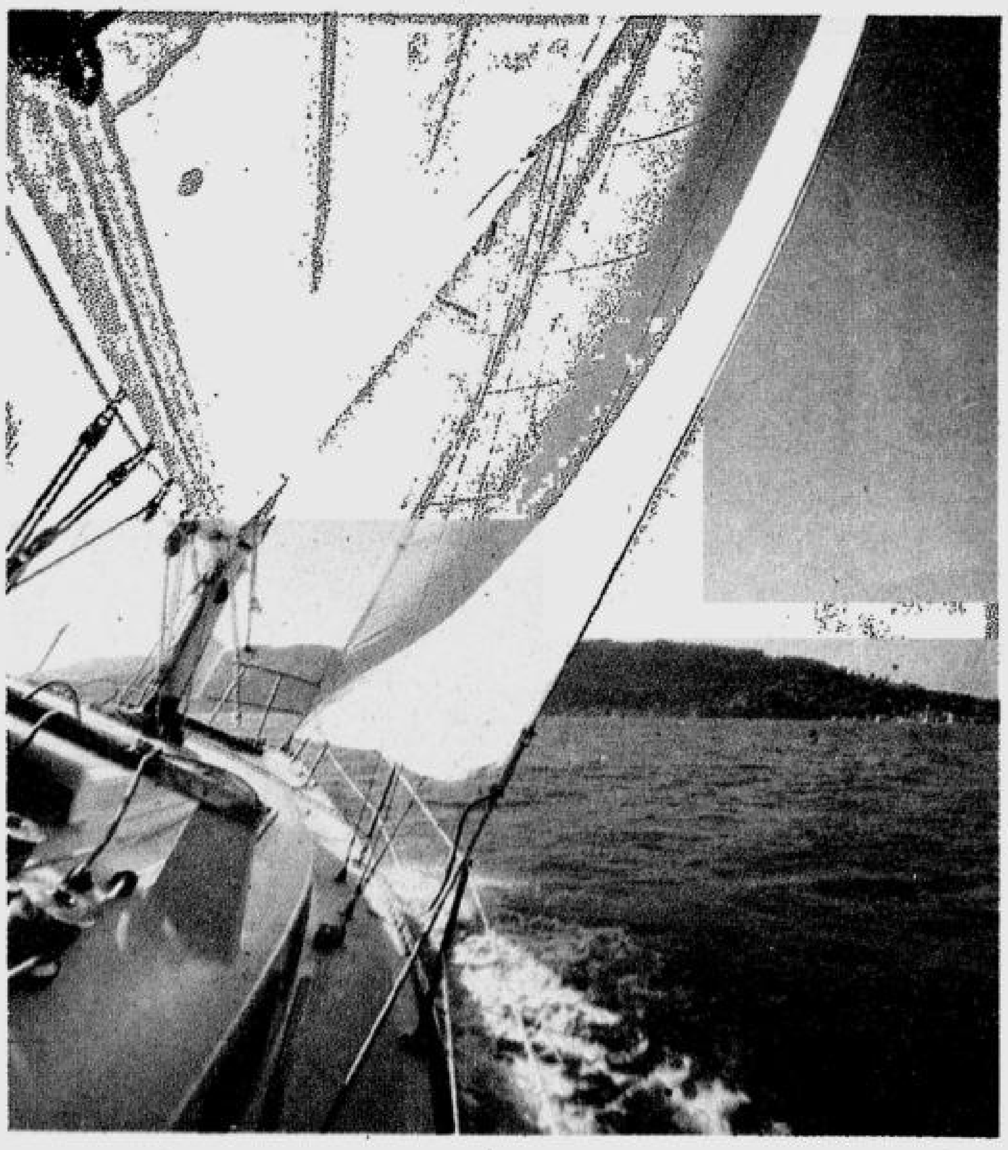

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BMW 318ia Exec	2,165,000	757,750	35,800
BMW 325ia	2,600,000	910,000	43,000
BMW 325ia Exec	2,700,000	945,000	46,000
BMW 523ia	3,095,000	1,083,250	50,000

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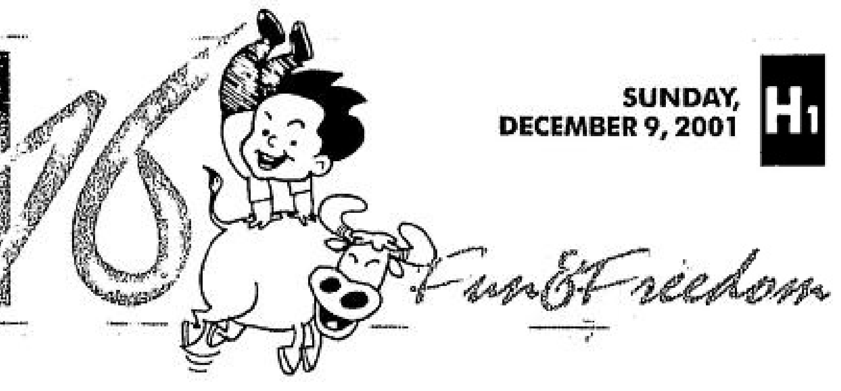
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3778-Series of 2001

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER



Re-*design* happens by design

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
EDSA 2

THE FUTURE of news design is shaping up to a slimmer look.

By Lynett A. Villariba
Design Director

IF YOU haven't noticed the evolution of the INQUIRER look through the years, we don't mind. In fact, the hallmark for a successful redesign is when readers become so comfortably at ease that they hardly notice the design at all. That means we've been getting straight to the point.

Good design, after all, is not just about winning awards. It is about winning readers.

The newspaper design philosophy for the new millennium says less is more. But that which also recognizes that at the center of what this is all about are the readers. In the age of information and graphic explosion, newspapers ought to provide organization, emphasis and clarity against disorder, chaos and confusion more than ever.

That remains our commitment through 16 years of being the national reading habit.

The INQUIRER is changing the way it looks in the same way it looks at the dynamic world. We'd like to be the first to transport you to the future of newspaper reading.

The shape of things to come consists of a tall but narrower canvas where the newspaper looks easier to grasp and more convenient to hold. Turning the broadsheet page will no longer be a chore in a crowded world without elbowing the one seated beside you or knocking down a cup of coffee that got in the way.

But what we hope will grab your attention is that your daily dose of reality check becomes a pleasant reading journey through words and images that read crisp and clear from paragraph to paragraph, from story to story, from front to jump

REDESIGN/H2

World watches in horror as terror unfolds in NY

INQUIRER

TERRORISTS HIT U.S.

World Trade Center destroyed; Pentagon damaged; Capitol, White House, state dep't evacuated

'It plowed right into the Pentagon'

110-STORY TWIN TOWERS

Symbol of US economic might

'Woman's instinct' in P90-M heist

COA wants Pascual et al. to return P72M

THE NEWSPAPER in the time of Gloria.

Estrada crony Dichaves, family flee to HK

INQUIRER

TIME'S UP FOR ERAP

Emissaries negotiating for President's exit

It's over: 11 Cabinet men resign

AFP deals fatal blow to Erap presidency

Lonely night at the Palace

IN TIMES of "Eraption."

CARTOONS BY JESS ABRERA

Erap firm on hero's burial for Marcos

INQUIRER

Bells ring for freedom

Being Filipino is enough

Rizal: The best the Filipino could be

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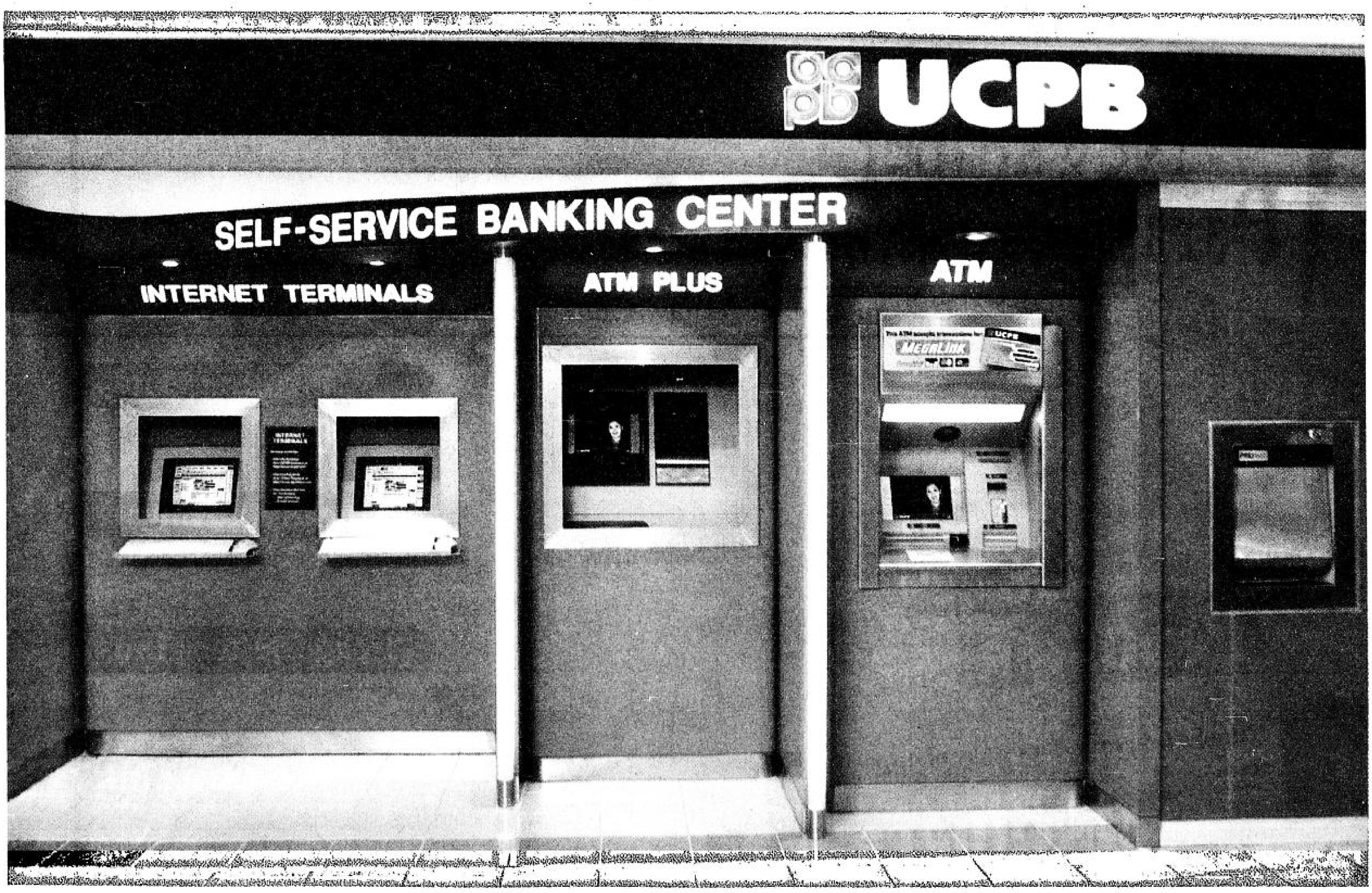

Another first from UCPB – Self-Service Banking.

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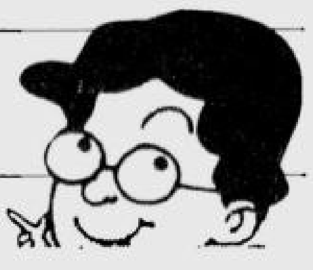


Re-design happens by design

FVR reads the news in black and white.

Abu Sayyaf founder slain in Basilan clash
INQUIRER
308135
4M attend Luneta Mass

(From page H1)

page. Carefully selected typography will make this happen.

The object of typography in a newspaper has been to squeeze as much words per column inch as can be read with ease. The dominant typeface the INQUIRER has worn since 1985, Times Roman, was originally created for the British newspaper London Times in 1935 out of the same economical need.

Visual landmarks

Times change, typeforms change with them—and some outlive their usefulness. Every era develops its own visual hallmarks, a language expressing the spirit of the times.

Churned out from IBM typesetting machines to the Morisawa photosetting method to the PMTs of the past, the news you read, with a Times Roman face and sometimes in Helvetica, for 16 years reflected the vibrant years of a regained press freedom.

Delivered into the reading world in a snap, the INQUIRER look went through birth pains, its masthead fashioned pronto out of Letraset letter transfers and line screens—when "stripping" meant a printing skill then, and "layering" was done by steady hands not yet lost to pushing keys and buttons.

Copy fitting in the mid-'80s meant page editors were in a fit counting column inches and banner headlines screaming out from paste-up letters and galleys "enlarged to fit".

Through the early years, the INQUIRER has perfected the look of an unmade bed as the newspage woke up to the realities of press deadlines with no time to fuss over make-up. We had always rationalized the non-design as translating into newslayout the Filipino "*halo-halo*" fiesta spirit.

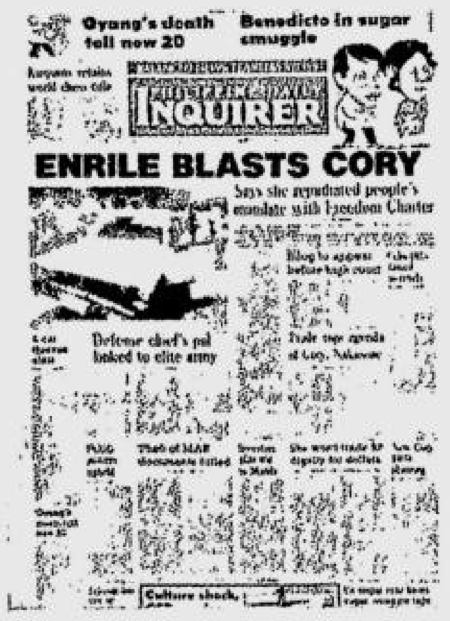
Only with the advent of computer technology did design come in to put some order and clarity in the newsroom.

By 1994, it was becoming embarrassingly apparent that we have not returned the favor to readers for making the newspaper No. 1 in circulation.

And so the 1994 design saw the transformation into a sleeker masthead and the unearthing of a page architecture long buried underneath the pile of news. The typeface Korinna Bold of circa '70s gave way to the more contemporary font Fritz Quadrata to effect the transition from spontaneously hysterical to a more controlled presentation of news.

Signature look

The new software technology made possible the creation of INQUIRER stripes as our signature look: from the masthead to the top flag to the signature labels. The easy-


Oyang's death toll now 20
Benedicto in sugar smuggle
INQUIRER
ENRILE BLASTS CORY
Says she repudiated people's mandate with Freedom Charter
Defense chief's pal linked to elite army
Culture shock

"WAR" in the time of Cory hiding behind the look of an unmade bed.

UCPB launches first self-service banking center

UCPB launched last week in dramatic fashion its latest innovation in service delivery—a fully automated banking center where customers can do most of their banking transactions through customer-activated machines.

Using homegrown talents, the bank staged a mini-fashion show before a highly appreciative crowd of over 200 hand-clapping, feet-stomping guests and shoppers at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall in Mandaluyong City to formally open the first UCPB Self-Service Banking Center.

The newly launched UCPB Self-Service Banking Center offers customers the use of two computer terminals where they can do Internet banking through UCPB Connect, browse the web, access their e-mail and pay for their online shopping using the bank's 1Time Payment facility. The center also has two ATMs, one of which is the UCPB ATM Plus, the only ATM with an online deposit function that immediately credits cash deposits to the depositor's account. The UCPB ATM Plus will be particularly useful to merchants who do not wish to keep huge amounts of cash on their person or at their shops at closing time.

Set to the high-energy beat of techno music, the mini-fashion show is a radical departure from the traditionally staid ribbon-cutting, coin-tossing routine of most launching rites in the industry, and serves to underscore the novelty of the UCPB Self-Service Banking Center. Observers expect the center to set a new trend in the delivery of banking services to the public.

Along with the other recent innovative services that the bank has introduced like the UCPB ATM Mobile, UCPB Jose Rizal Club, UCPB MediCredit, UCPB Connect, 1Time Payment, and the UCPB Drive Up ATM, the establishment of the UCPB Self-Service Banking Center reflects the bank's dynamic character and customer centric orientation. These have enabled the bank to create innovative solutions to respond to specific needs of particular segments of its markets and customers.

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Stocks fall; investors wary of opposition win
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Just play me
P36/Sports
ever'

on-the-eyes horizontal lines track the normal path of reading from left to right. The INQUIRER signature stripes lent order and movement to a vertical and text-heavy page.

Jess Abrera's commentary cartoons remained the order of the daily front page as the animated carabao mascot came into life surviving coups, calamities, crimes and presidents' wrath. The carabaotoon was the constant in an evolving design.

The new design consciousness brought modular layout, headline hierarchy, dominant point of reading entry, balanced distribution of weight into the newsroom vocabulary. Reader-friendly not only remained the buzzword but became the editorial mantra.

Layout artists progressed into graphic designers as functional design tempered art expression. Writing, editing and design became integrated as each role player valued one another.

1998 saw the transition of the monochromatic front page into a full color canvas, brought about by the acquisition of color printing technologies. The masthead dropped the line background in favor of a tonal gradient blue. Graphic designers made full use of image enhancement software and reached new heights in digital creativity.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Marcos handpicks Tolentino as running mate
IT'S CORY-DOY!
KBL hoopla cost P50 million?

THE START of the end of Marcos as president inspires the birth of a new paper.

Comfort, economics

The application of new graphic technologies rubbed on readers, too. And as reading taste become more sophisticated, influenced in part by the fluctuating cost of newsprint and the advent of the electronic paperless reading called the Web, new typefaces emerge that display a potent power: that of conveying impressions and character.

Reading comfort, as well as publishing economics, are still primary considerations why more and more large newspapers all over the world are redesigning, changing their look and their dimensions. The objective of the INQUIRER 2002 redesign is to find the perfect merging of these two.

The redesign challenge, then, is to use less space in a smarter way—with tighter editing, thoughtful photography, explanatory graphics, provocative illustrations, accurate and inviting headlines. The usual stuff INQUIRER is made of, but design-managed in a smaller scale.

The new typography calls for a more condensed typeface that would allow more words per column inch to read comfortably. Ease of reading lies in the details where the chosen typeface offer a higher x-height, meaning the lower case letters stand taller in proportion to the capitals, making type appear bigger without increasing its overall size. Such details happen not by accident but by design.

The choice serif typeface to replace the old Times body type is a formal, modern body type appropriate for long text documents called Charter BT. Of recent vintage (1987), it was one of the six best typefaces selected in the '90s as most readable for newspaper body text by a group of international experts for the Poynter Institute of Media Studies.

Condensed at 95 percent, the Charter change allows for the barest minimum text loss (under 5 percent) in the transition to a slimmer format. The new typography is designed to give the impression that the news gets to the point quicker.

The redesign task is part of a continuing process to find how emerging technologies can best improve newspaper reading. This time we'll make sure you notice the change when we launch it early next year.

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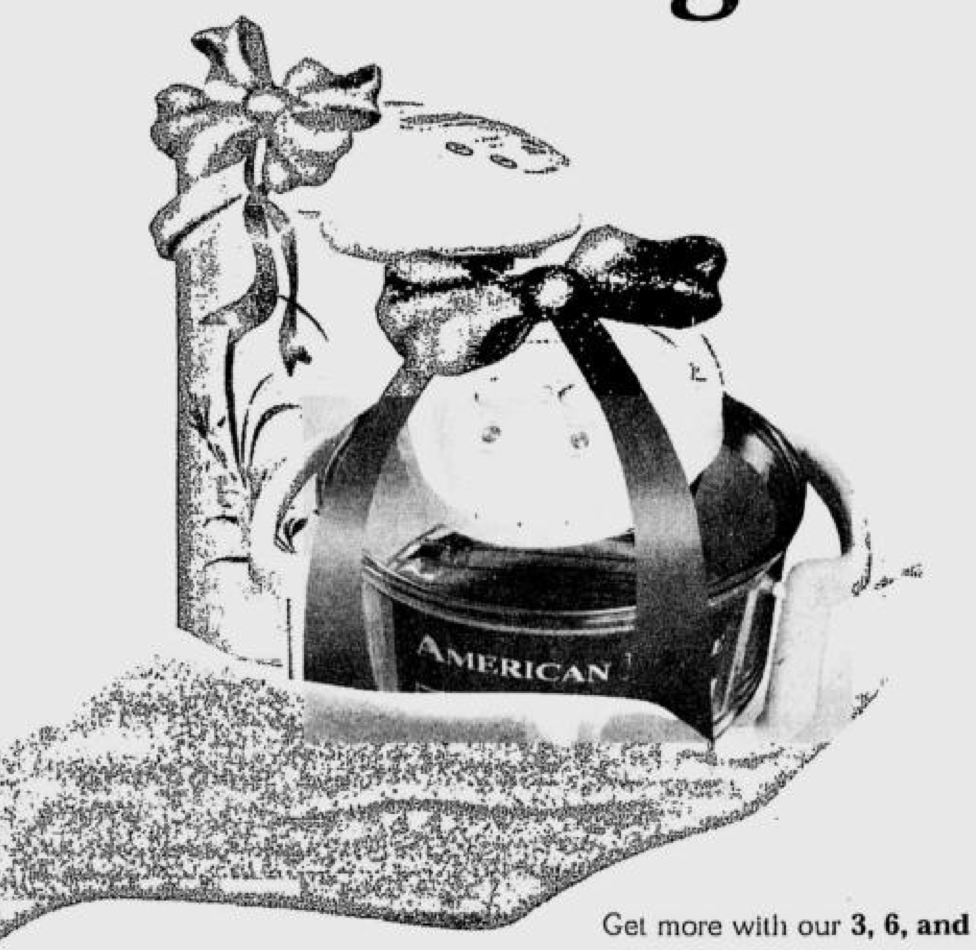

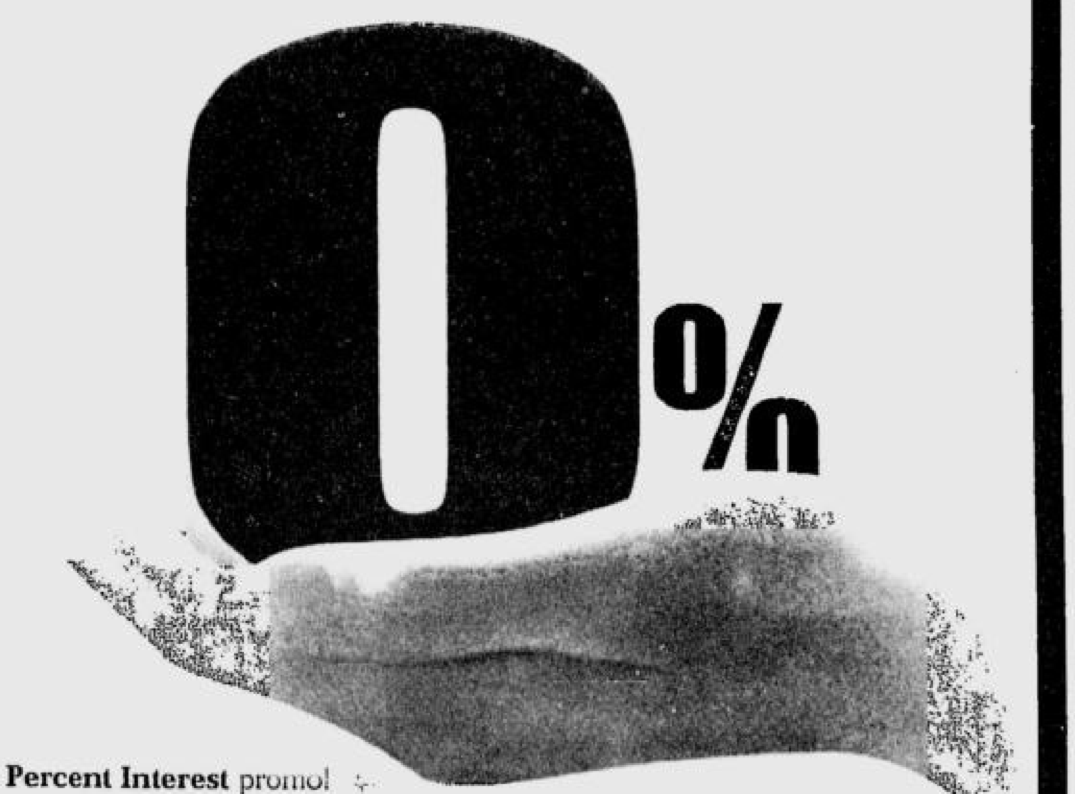

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Microwave oven	AMW210LE, 218LE & 219LE	0.02 cu.m. (0.7 cu.ft.) Electronic Panel	P6,499.00		P1,083.17	
Refrigerator*	GS 2182NKGW	0.59 cu.m. (21 cu.ft.) Side by Side	P62,000.00	P20,666.67		
Refrigerator*	GS 2588PKDW	0.71 cu.m. (25 cu.ft.) Side by Side	P76,000.00	P25,333.33		
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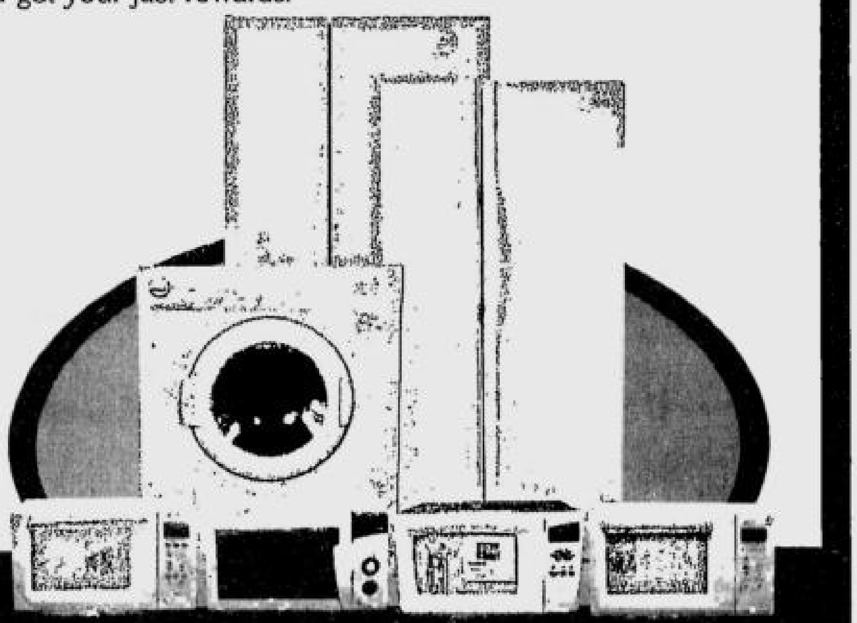

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Making the best of the worst of times

BY DAVID O. VALDES,
SVP Corporate Services

THEY were the worst of years, but they brought out the best in us.

Years from now, people in the newspaper business will remember 2000 and 2001 as probably the toughest in the Philippine newspaper industry since the martial law days.

The political crises of 2000 meant much uncertainty to news media firms like the INQUIRER because the people in power then showed just how easily they could punish the media by coercing advertisers to boycott a newspaper.

While the political situation has improved this year, the industry continues to be under intense financial pressure from high newsprint prices worldwide. The 30-percent increase in newsprint prices from the end of 1999 to 2000 was simply too much to be absorbed by cover price increases.

The situation is further worsened by the continuing decline of the peso versus the US dollar. Most Philippine newspapers use recycled newsprint processed from imported raw materials that are bought using precious dollars.

Print advertising, like other media, declined in the year 2001 and fears of more advertising cutbacks are looming as part of the fallout from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States. At least two newspapers have slowly faded away and more closures are imminent.

Despite the challenges, the INQUIRER remains upbeat and poised to beat the odds. It continues to increase its readership and circulation. The INQUIRER's advertising revenue is expected to be higher than last year as it continues to gain advertising market share.

And, most important, the INQUIRER continues to reap the highest journalism awards from the country's most prestigious award-giving bodies.

The key to the INQUIRER's amazing performance is a combination of sound strategies that are simple yet uncommon.

Old and new

Firstly, the INQUIRER has kept the old-fashioned journalism values of integrity and editorial independence. While many other newspapers claim the same values, few have really practiced them as consistently. Despite pressure from the government and other sources, the INQUIRER has remained independent and fearless in its stance. The pressure succeeded only in boosting the INQUIRER's credibility among its readers.

Secondly, while others chose to play it safe and conserve resources, the INQUIRER took a huge risk and set up satellite printing presses in Cebu and Davao. Very soon another press will be opening in Mamplasan, Laguna.

The re-sized INQUIRER debuts on Jan. 25, 2002, after more than a year of careful study and design development

The result of the strategy is the earlier delivery of the INQUIRER and an increase in circulation in the Visayas and Mindanao regions.

Lastly, the INQUIRER realized that innovation was needed. While the problems of rising cost and stagnant revenue is as old as the industry, old solutions to old problems were just not good enough.

Forever free

One of these innovations is the launching of a completely new concept in the Philippine newspaper industry.

The INQUIRER knew that its core habitat readers belong to a more upscale market. While the INQUIRER has a strong middle class readership, the vast majority of the C, D and E markets are still described as occasional or non-habitual readers. The challenge therefore was to penetrate this large market.

The traditional solution would have been to launch a tabloid and compete by using even sexier photos and even more violent headlines. The INQUIRER instead chose to launch a high quality newspaper that cares for its readers and treats them with the respect they deserve—the Inquirer Libre.

The Inquirer Libre has short, straight-to-the-point news articles and how-to features that are relevant to the middle class. ***(Related story on page G11.)***

Libre's defining characteristic of course comes from the ultimate pricing strategy: It is absolutely free. And it will stay that way forever. It will make its money purely from advertisers.

Already a big hit, 100,000 copies of Libre are distributed Mondays through Fridays at most LRT and MRT stations.

Brightest hope

Clearly, though, most of the INQUIRER's new investments would not have an immediate benefit in terms of annual net profit. It needed another innovative and dramatic solution to its financial challenges that are brought about mainly by the rising cost of newsprint.

Of all the options the INQUIRER considered, the resizing of the newspaper page presented the brightest hope.

It all started with an article in a trade magazine, published by the World Association of Newspapers in early 2000, about how newspapers in Canada, the US and Brazil were reducing the sizes of their broadsheets. The idea that a slight reduction in newspaper size could be worth millions in newsprint savings captured the imagination of the INQUIRER's top executives.

Project Big

Although the paper width would be reduced by a mere 1 inch per page, the estimated cost savings were in the tens of millions of pesos annually.

What followed was months of research, design, consultations with the top advertising agencies in the country, and even discussions with the INQUIRER's most rabid critics. The project is called "Project Big" because, if successful, it would mean tremendous savings in newsprint and substantial relief for the environment. ***(Story on page H1.)***

Focus group discussions and meetings were held among groups of readers and top advertisers. The responses were overwhelmingly positive. The new size is simply more convenient, and the new fonts were judged very readable even among the older group of respondents.

The re-sized INQUIRER debuts on Jan. 25, 2002, after more than a year of careful study and design development. The INQUIRER may look a little different but it remains firmly committed to delivering the same fearless views, balanced news.

When faced with a bad situation, many organizations tend to retreat, dwell on the past and remember the good old days. The INQUIRER has proven that the best way to face a crisis is to think positive, innovate, and take calculated risks.

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Printing satellites, niching, taking risks

By Rene R. Reinoso,
SVP Sales and Marketing

THE SURVEY says: Annual circulation and advertising revenues are going down, while newsprint prices are going up.

The Inquirer Sales and Marketing team's anticipation of these challenges is the first proactive step taken to prepare for the changing times. The Inquirer has hurdled similar challenges because of its passion, resiliency and no-nonsense management style.

The Sales and Marketing team envisioned the long-term growth prospects as a more important consideration, at the expense of short-term gains.

According to the yearly circulation survey conducted among newspaper dealers, the average annual circulation of broadsheet newspapers declines by 8 percent to 10 percent. Even advertising revenues have been forecasted to soften up as a result of the global economic meltdown and strategic agency alliances worldwide.

To make matters worse, world newsprint prices are also expected to increase at an average of 32 percent starting next year. This will certainly create an inevitable domino effect that will further curtail readership levels.

The onset of the newspaper industry's maturity is also characterized by slow market growth and declining profit margins, with more emphasis on product investments for evolving markets.

Commitment

Beginning this year, the Cebu and Davao printing satellites were inaugurated as a clear manifestation of the Inquirer's commitment to serve our readers and expand our network. Through digital technology, our advertisers and clients can now expect better quality printing of their ads and more savings on production costs.

Because of this printing innovation, advertisers can localize their ads so that these are attuned to their particular target market and they enhance the flexibility and effectiveness of the advertising message.

Job Market is also a product-niching initiative that has effectively served the needs of upscale jobseekers. Job ads are categorized according to managerial, technical and general classifications for easy reference.

Millions of readers are now making use of this product as a source of job placements and other employment opportunities.

Newspaper conferencing is now the global craze in hastening branding and marketing efforts. Again, the Inquirer took the lead with the recently launched, "People at Work Live Seminar Series" as an interactive tool to provide information and advice on effective job hunting and communication.

People at Work, one of the most widely read business sections of the Inquirer, talks about the joys and pains at the workplace.

Just recently, another major innovation was launched with the distribution of free newspapers at MRT and LRT stations in Metro Manila. The product, Inquirer Libre, has catapulted the Inquirer into being the most innovative and globally competitive newspaper organization in the country.

Inquirer Libre is a free tabloid specifically targeted at the C-D-E market.

Efficiency

One of the best things we have done was to emphasize efficiency in all aspects of our operations. While the difficulty lies in striking a balance between editorial priorities and business, the process of synergy and constant communication has given our thrust a much needed boost in capturing market share.

Second, we continue to portray an aggressive sales stance both in circulation and advertising. The idea is to maximize circulation levels in all potential units of the market and to translate this into effective advertising opportunities.

This win-win situation between the Inquirer and our stakeholders has been the cornerstone of guaranteeing stability and viability within the organization.

And third, we have identified growth initiatives in the company. By being more sophisticated in our marketing efforts, we ensure that our product extensions satisfy the needs and wants of our target market at all times. Changing lifestyles have made innovation inevitable. And the needs of these evolving markets have to be satisfied.

Taking risks

It is easy to buy into the notion that we are invulnerable, without having to take the risks that we have done in the past. We have dismissed this notion and instead continued to take risks in order to rise to the occasion.

The Inquirer also believes that building an innovative organization is the key to ensuring its continued strength and self-sufficiency.

As market leader, we believe in taking the lead and in pursuing the goals of the company with much vigor.

Innovative marketing is now the byword in the Inquirer and we hope it will transform the landscape of these ongoing challenges to a more positive note. The Inquirer has a vision that will outlive all of us, a dream that hopes to change the lives of all those it influences.

CAREER TALE OF THE YEAR

PEOPLE at Work marked its anniversary with a free seminar series at the SGV Hall of Acceed capped by the Career Tale of the Year awarding ceremony at the Inquirer, with Kenny Nuyda (extreme left), People at Work editor Reggie Reyes and the author (right).

INQUIRER Gol

PRESIDENTIAL SWING. The Inquirer supported the GMA-PBSP Golf Tournament at the Manila Golf Club, with Mr. Mike Arroyo and former President Fidel V. Ramos.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2053, Series of 2001

PROMOTING reading program with PDI president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez.

NEW PAPER drive support is received by PDI Director Dennis Valdes, Ms Romualdez and Corporate Affairs Officer Celine Madamba.

MORE support comes for the New Paper campaign.

Not about image but about caring

BY LORENA E. ALTO
Corporate Relations Office

THERE'S more to the Inquirer's corporate relations office than merely building im age and brand loyalty. Its most essential role is to ensure that the Inquirer brings meaning to the community. Corporate relations strive to enhance ties with different sectors of the community, particularly with nongovernment organizations, the academe, and religious institutions through sponsorships.

Some of the noteworthy socio-civic programs that the corporate relations office currently participates in are Habitat for Humanity, World Wildlife Fund Philippines, the "New Paper" Drive, and the readership campaign.

Habitat

The corporate relations office handles Habitat for Humanity, a project launched to help eradicate poverty, and ensure low-cost but safe homes for the poor. The Inquirer joined the Habitat established in the Philippines in 1998, as a national sponsor.

World Wildlife Fund

As part of the Inquirer's growing role in ensuring a safe and healthy ecosystem, it forged a tie-up with World Wildlife Fund Philippines, an NGO whose ultimate mission is to ensure the preservation of our marine wildlife. Through the corporate partnership, two public information campaigns titled, "Wildlife Alive" and "Fish for Survival" were implemented.

Just recently the Inquirer was rewarded a token of appreciation as corporate partner by WWF for its involvement in the organization's campaign to save the environment.

Recycling campaign

To keep in step with its environment-conscious mindset, the Inquirer, through the corporate relations office, spearheaded the "New Paper" Drive last June to September of this year. The drive is an annual newspaper recycling campaign that involves the collection and purchase of old newpapers and tabloids at P3 per kilo. Its main goal was to save trees and promote the use of recycled paper. But beyond that, the campaign aimed to reduce the amount of waste that went to disposal sites. Through the campaign, the Inquirer collected over 96,000 kilos of old newspapers equivalent to saving around 600 trees.

Its efforts were awarded with a Special Citation in the Catholic Mass Media Awards.

New readers, writers

To address the problem of declining readership among the youth, the corporate relations office has launched a readership campaign for teens together with Filipinas Heritage Library, Adarna Publishing House, Candy Magazine, and MTV Ink. The campaign, titled "Teens Read, Too!" aims to promote reading among high school students through various competitions and provide training to young writers, through a teens camp and a series of seminars.

To promote readership among college students, the corporate relations office is organizing the first "Inquirer Inter-collegiate Debating Championship" with the UP Debate Society to be conducted in February 2002. The role of the Inquirer is to aid the students in developing thinking skills and awareness of national and foreign issues.

School tours

To keep in stride with the continuous focus on the youth, the corporate relations office regularly conducts schools tours at the Inquirer building, open to students of all ages. They are presented with the newspaper process, as well as given a tour around the editorial offices and printing press.

By speaking directly to the community-at-large through its socially oriented programs, the Inquirer sends a clear message to its readers—a message that clearly defines its vision and mission toward society as a whole.

Its message? We care.

WWF
CORPORATE PARTNER
SHAKING hands on a partnership are Ms Romualdez and a representative of the World Wildlife Fund.

CLASS act is put up by students visiting the Inquirer building.

CEMENTING support for Habitat for Humanity is PDI Chair Marixi Prieto.

TRIVIA 2001

By Nancy Carvajal

What is the recent cash incentive scheme in the editorial? **Most friendly-pages award. (cash, too) All sections compete against each other.**

When is the food most abundant in the editorial office? **Friday, almost all sections receive food with press releases galore**

Who is the new Inquirer union president? **Cynthia Balana, the reporter who covers the Senate.**

What is the reporter's most anticipated and at the same time dreaded time ? **Beat reassignments. The Inquirer has a policy to reshuffle reporters' beats every one and a half year for the reporters to gain a well- rounded view of news coverage.**

Which employees will be married to each other soon?. **Arnold Buño of Cashier and Josie Mendoza of Information Technology.**

Which columnist has the distinction of having the most number of e-mail and mail (including not so nice comments)? **Kris Aquino**

What is the best indication that yoga sessions relaxes the Inquirer staff? **Mr Yambot, publisher, was noted to be snoring while doing the corpse position**

CBA REVISITED

'The lighting was terribly bad'

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

(The author, a sports reporter, was the president of the PDI Employees Union during the CBA negotiation this year.)

SO THERE would be no mistaking about what this article is all about, I have to say off the bat that I'm not about to write a flimsy, cutesy anniversary piece on how the Inquirer managed to close its biggest, most sensational CBA package to date.

This is going to be an insightful article about what really took place in and out of the second-floor board room from June to August of this year. I'm about to reveal every inside information there was and air my gripes, too. I'm prepared to face the consequences.

For the record, I personally think that we could have gotten a better CBA package if . . .

For starters, I really think that it would have helped a lot if we didn't hold all our meetings at the same venue all the time. Listen, we met for about 20 or so times at the same venue at the same time (10 a.m.). Without really meaning to, I was able to keep track on how well Mandy Navasero's photographer vests were selling across the street from where I sat. Seeing the same things over and over again for a long period of time really doesn't help when you're bargaining for higher wages and benefits.

Then of course, the lighting was terribly bad. I don't know who thought about it but the Union panel was seated directly facing the all-glass panels of the room which made it harder for us to probe the faces of the management panel members. You see, CBA nego is exactly like a poker game, You have to observe your opponents' every move, especially their facial expressions.

From my vantage point, all I saw were shadowy figures of the management panel especially at around 2 p.m., when the sun tilted toward the window. On the other hand, the management panel had the best view of how we looked during highly charged episodes of the negotiations. For goodness sake, I couldn't even scratch my leg for fear of sending the wrong signals to the other side of the table. The seating arrangement was a big disadvantage for the Union's cause any way I looked at it.

There was also a severe shortage of chairs inside the board room. The Union always had three observers (meaning, they were not regular panel members) every meeting. And every time I noticed there was always one observer who had to sit on a monobloc chair because the room was short on swivel chairs we regular members sat on.

I really believe that a person who is seated uncomfortably for three to four hours on a plastic chair is not likely to share the same opinion with somebody who is slouching on a cushioned board room chair for the same period of time. No wonder the Union panel always took a longer time to arrive at a consensus.

Cuisine conspiracy

I don't want to think there was a conspiracy about the kind of food served during our CBA meetings, but it definitely played a big part on how both panels arrived at certain decisions.

Please don't get me wrong, the management indeed provided us good food during the meetings. But I mean, our food choices during the entire nego were limited to what was on Aristocrat's menu. It certainly had an effect on our judgment on certain issues. Personally, I vowed never to dine at Aristocrat's for an indefinite period of time. I think I had my fill of chicken barbecue, beef mechado, crabmeat pasta and lengua estofado to last me for several years.

There was also the big question on the decision to take turns in recording the meetings and preparing the minutes. I really think management should have done all the reading and for us to check the minutes afterward. Because either panel had something to say about the minutes no matter how carefully they were done. In fact, neither panel could get the grammar right and kept on writing "the minutes of the meeting is." Which elicited lengthy conversations on good grammar.

Which didn't really help to arrive at a healthy compromise. That's a big factor against us Union panelists, if you really want to know the truth.

I hope both the Union and management panels consider the points that I raised here when we again sit down three years from now.

AGREEMENT is finally reached, PDI President Sandy Prieto-Romualdez announces, despite "glaring" differences.

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The brave new World Wide Web

BY LEO MAGNO

TEN years ago, on Dec. 12, 1991, the first website from the west went online. It was a site created by Stanford University physicist Paul Kunz. It linked other sites from Europe to e-mail addresses of other professors and to a scientific database.

Stanford was part of the first network of universities which created the first network of websites. The World Wide Web itself was created in 1990 in Switzerland by Tim Berners-Lee while working with the European Laboratory for Particle Physics. A year after Berners-Lee and colleague Robert Cailliau set up the first Web server, Kunz put up his website. The name World Wide Web was chosen over other candidates such as Information Mine, Mine of Information and Information Mesh.

That was 10 years ago. Kunz's website was very simple then. It had all the graphical sophistication of a grocery receipt—it consisted only of one webpage and three lines of text, two of which were hyperlinks to e-mail and a scientific database. Today, websites contain dozens of links per page, more multimedia content such as audio and video, and there are now close to a billion webpages online.

Such figures show how much information has been transferred unto the Web, and how much more new information is being generated by this, the information society.

Take the INQUIRER for example. Sixteen years after the country's most read newspaper rolled off the presses, it has developed into a printed medium which caters to more markets by developing different sections, with balanced news and fearless views being the core of its content.

The newspaper's content has evolved with the times and stood against the challenges thrown in the way of media entities, thus ensuring not only its survival but its continued leadership as well.

Part of the INQUIRER's continued development is its extension to the World Wide Web. As the information database on the Internet continues to grow, so too does the INQUIRER contribute to the wealth of news and information accessible online.

The same is true with other media. As more news organizations start embracing the Web and as more multimedia material is being made available online, broadcast organizations such as GMA Network are starting to realize the advantage of having a presence on the Web.

This is how INQ7 Interactive Inc. or INQ7.net was born. It was the realization that the Web has grown into a mass communication medium that convinced the INQUIRER and GMA 7 to jointly establish an online news delivery company. And, with more than half a billion people logging on to the Internet worldwide, the INQUIRER and GMA 7 instantly became news disseminators to a global audience through INQ7.net.

Fast, furious, visual

The Web has changed much since Kunz put up his website 10 years ago. E-mail and news gathering are still the two most utilized resources on the Internet, but the content required to keep people coming back to a website has evolved far from Kunz's original three-line webpage.

News content on the Web today has to be fast, furious and visual. The broadcast mentality adopted by INQ7.net has led it to use more audio and video while delivering bursts of data through breaking news. This is where the synergy between the INQUIRER and GMA 7 becomes evident.

And while the print and broadcast media are synchronous, INQ7.net brings both the INQUIRER and GMA 7 to the era of asynchronous communications made possible by the Internet. With the Internet, the audience can view their news when they want to—they don't have to physically be in front of a television set at a particular airtime slot to view the evening news, and they don't have to be in front of a newspaper at the breakfast table to read the day's news.

With online technologies, they can have news delivered to them via their mobile phone or personal digital assistant. They can even choose to watch a video clip or listen to radio news from INQ7.net at their convenience. It's called asynchronous news on demand.

Personal, participatory

Online news today is also personal and participatory. They can choose from among different online features and send feedback or participate in discussion forums. This extends tremendously the reader and viewer feedback mechanism of the INQUIRER and GMA 7.

The World Wide Web—what could have been called the Information Mine 10 years ago—has moved from the hands of academicians into those of the general public. This is a public thirsty for information, an information society digging ever deeper into the information mine.

As INQ7.net moves into the mainstream news market, so too, does the INQUIRER, on its 16th birthday, move forward into digital news leadership, and so too, does GMA 7 expand its news network to a global audience of information miners.

New kids . . .

(From page H8)

His greatest fear? "To be a failure." When he was in high school, his parents had his fate foretold and the stars were unkind—he was "destined" to be a failure.

"That's the reason I am so driven. I'm like a bull, *lalabanan ko 'yan*. I was told it's going to be a tough year ahead for me, but I am happy to be here (at the INQUIRER). I welcome the challenges. That's what I want. Rene (Reinoso) recommended me to be in this job, and I don't want to disappoint him."

Oh, he does make time for play: basketball, tennis and swimming, and occasionally goes on a movie marathon—three movies in a row from, say, 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., his only escape from reality.

Beatles fan is no mush

LUIS R. YMSON JR.
VP and Chief Finance Officer

THEY don't make comedy movies like they used to," laments the soft-spoken executive, who misses the Woody Allen comedy formula in films. This is from a man who used to love watching Mighty Mouse as a kid. But he likes Gwyneth Paltrow, and he enjoys watching any blockbuster film starring Bruce Willis, Tom Hanks or Kevin Costner.

He has a friendly face and a reserved smile, and is quick to admit he is shy, especially when it comes to expressing his feelings.

Ymson used to collect vinyl jazz LPs in the '70s and '80s, and turns wistful when he talks about his favorite song, the Beatles' "In My Life." But when it comes to work, however, he is no mush. Ymson is pragmatic. "I believe there are practical solutions to everything," he says.

Ymson finished industrial management engineering at De La Salle University, but never had the chance to practice his craft. He came upon the finance world by accident after college, when Far East Bank took him on as an appraiser. He quickly rose from the ranks and has since worked for seven other banks. So what is a banker doing at the INQUIRER?

"I am here to help this corporation to strengthen its finances," he says. Not that the INQUIRER is in trouble, he quickly adds. "I have never worked for a newspaper before but I welcome the new challenges."

To keep in shape, he hits the gym at least twice a week, and occasionally plays basketball and golf. "I don't want to be idle. I can't stand not doing anything," he says.

Superwoman is alive

MARGARITA LIBORO DELGADO
Editor, Élan

SHE is the living epitome of the modern-day superwoman—a healthy, beautiful, energetic mother of four and a hardworking, successful businesswoman. Not only has she mastered the art of time management, her staff says, but Delgado also exudes grace and poise under pressure.

She wears power suits to work—but never in boring all-black or gray colors.

Delgado is up and about at 6 a.m., where she starts her day by sweating it out at the gym, and she occasionally pampers herself by visiting the spa. She keeps a supply of Graham Crackers on hand, and eats sandwiches for lunch not because she's on a diet but because she is always on the go, juggling time between family and work.

"She's very busy I don't think she can live without her cell phone," says Rochelle Leonor, Élan's editorial assistant. She's a meticulous, organized perfectionist, but Leonor says that's the reason Delgado is very efficient. "*Nakatutok na s'ya* when your working, hands-on *pa s'ya*. Time is never wasted on small talk."

"She's a workaholic. When I first started working for her I thought I knew everything, but instead I learned a lot," says her executive secretary of eight years, Crisencia Fuentes. "She wants good results but she works very hard for it. But I love my job and I love working for her. We're a team."

Her unwavering loyalty is not without a reason though. Beneath the impersonal, business-like demeanor lies a woman with a big heart. For instance, when Delgaldo learned that Fuentes' daughter was sick, she asked her if there were enough medicines around, then she recommended her to a family doctor at the Makati Medical Center and in the end, she foot the bill.

The fact that Delgado never fails to bring her secretary and her kid *pasalubongs* from her trips abroad is touching enough, but what Fuentes admires most about her boss is how she handles her family affairs. "She always has time for her family that no matter how busy her schedule may be, she makes sure she's home at a certain hour so she can read bedtime stories to her child."

Children, it seems, have a special place in her heart. Delgado is the president and founder of the Sa Aklat Sisikap, a project that aims to instill upon schoolchildren the importance of reading books. She is a business management graduate of Assumption College, and is currently the vice president for the Quality Enhancement Group and HRD of the family-owned corporation, Delbros Inc.

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LIM

BY ANNE A. JAMBORA

Youth not wasted on the young

DONALD PATRICK L. LIM
Classified/Advertising Division Head and Marketing Services Manager

STANDING at 6'2", it's hard to miss him in a crowd. As if his towering presence is not enough, Lim also possesses an infectious passion to succeed in everything—an attribute he hopes will rub off on everyone he works with.

"You have to know what makes a person happy. Career growth alone may not be the answer. If a person is happy, s/he will have a better work output," he says.

His first challenge, it seems, is to overcome the age difference between him and his staff, all of whom are older than he is. Much. Much. His solution? Do away with the Donald Duck cartoon tie for the meantime.

And he keeps his age secret.

Just how young he really is, well, go ask him. For starters, he used to love watching "The Simpsons" and "X-Men." And not only is he the INQUIRER's youngest executive, but he is probably the only one who still obediently follows a curfew at home imposed by his parents—12 midnight, if he's out on a date. But make no mistake, when it comes to work he sure darn well knows what he's doing.

Lim finished his management degree at the Ateneo de Manila University. He recently finished his MBA at the Murdoch University in Perth, Western Australia. Yes, he is the youngest ever among the university's list of MBA holders. "They placed me on probation at first because they said I was too young, but when they realized I could handle it they took me in," he says. "It's my one obsession right now—studying."

He has an insatiable desire to learn, and yet to learn more. In fact, he outgrew his "youthful" hobby of collecting stamps to, um, collecting educational degrees—Hotel and Restaurant Management (he used to work for Burger King), Executive Management, Interior Decorating and Pelmanism—through correspondence schools here and abroad.

To say that Lim is disciplined is an understatement. He follows a strict schedule without exemption—whether it be bedtime, playtime or work. For instance, 10-11 p.m. is the time reserved for personal phone calls. Beyond that . . . Well, good luck!

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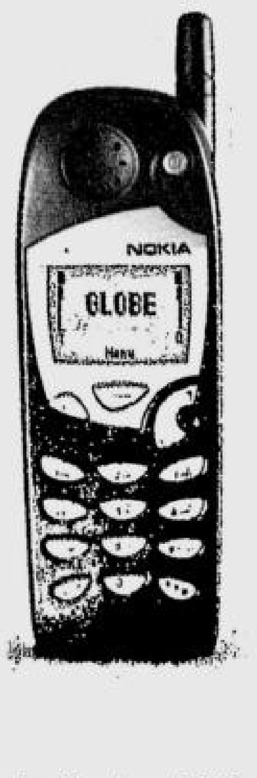

The accredited dealers and outlets that sold the winning Nokia 5110i phonekits:

Semicon
Megamall

Text Me Trading
San Fernando, La Union

Mega Cellular
Festival Supermall

Globe HANDYPHONE Prepaid Plus

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2840, Series of 2001.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
e-mail address: jobmarket@inquirer.com.ph
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
JOB MARKET®
Where You Find The Best.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2001 www.jobmarketonline.com Metro Manila Edition • Philippine Copyright 1995 J1

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This special section comes FREE with your copy of the
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
published every Sunday and distributed in Metro Manila
RATES
₱190 per column centimeter every Sunday (E-VAT exclusive)
DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Thursday 12:00 noon

November 15, 2001
Tampa, Florida
Batch 6 departure

A life and a career in the USA

(Job Fair for RNs)

Makati Shangri-La Hotel
Manila B Room (Level 1)
December 15, 2001
8:00 am - 12:00 nn

Schedule of Events

Registration	8:00 - 9:00 am
Orientation	9:00 - 10:00 am
Open Forum	10:00 - 11:00 am
Contract Signing	11:00 - 12:00 nn

Two top hospitals in the US invite you to explore a great nursing career in the progressive state of Texas. **Memorial Hermann Baptist Beaumont Hospital** of Beaumont, Texas and **St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital** of Houston, Texas are ready and able to sponsor nurses and their immediate families. They will be **shouldering all expenses related to acquiring an I-140 Employment-based Immigrant Visa;** as well as, **reimbursing the CGFNS, TOEFL/TWE, TSE and Visa Screen fees.**

They will host a Job Fair at the **Makati Shangri-La, Manila B Room (Level 1) on Saturday, December 15, 2001 from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon.** Admission is **FREE**!

Bring all pertinent documents for assessment.
Resume with detailed job description
Transcript of Records
Nursing Diploma
Any letters of recommendation
PRC license
Board rating and certificate
Marriage Certificate (if applicable)
Birth Certificates (including spouse and children)
3 pcs recent 2 x 2 colored pictures
CGFNS/N-CLEX certificate (if already taken)
TOEFL/TWE/TSE and Visa Screen Certificate (if available)

For inquiries and pre-registration, visit or contact:

Universal Worker
From anywhere to anywhere!

We also offer extensive and highly individualized review courses for CGFNS, N-CLEX, TOEFL/TWE and TSE with
FREE class on test-taking strategies and rationalization
FREE access to CAT simulation, books, video and audio tapes
FREE acculturation and slang classes
PLUS 100% assurance of a job placement after passing the exam
99% passing rate for CGFNS and 97% passing rate for N-CLEX taken in the US Mainland.
Make your reservations for the January review session.

Memorial Hermann Baptist Beaumont Hospital

Memorial Hermann Baptist Beaumont Hospital is a recent addition to the Memorial Hermann Healthcare System, one of the largest community-based, not-for-profit health care networks in the US. It is honored 100 top hospitals in ICU and Stroke. The Ben and Julie Rogers Cancer Institute is an integral part of the Beaumont campuses and is the leader in cancer treatment in Southeast, Texas.

Memorial Hermann Baptist Beaumont Hospital offers a comprehensive compensation package for nurses which include:
Salary
$ 20 to 25/hour pre-RN rate
Benefits
- Group Medical Plan
- Dental and Vision Coverage
- Life and Accident Insurance
- Reimbursement Accounts
- Family and Medical Leave
- Paid Time Off
- Extended Illness Bank
- Tuition Reimbursement
- Credit Union
- Employee Assistance Program

St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital

St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital in Houston is a faith-based, non-profit hospital. It has been recently designated a Magnet hospital - the highest honor a health care organization can receive for nursing services.

St. Luke's emphasis on valuing people involves not only for patients but also for its "work family".

Nurses at St. Luke's enjoy a total compensation package that includes:
Salary
$ 20 to 25/hour pre-RN rate
Benefits
- Health Care Coverage
- Life Insurance Coverage
- Paid Time Off Program
- Family and Medical Leave of Absence
- Educational Assistance
- Matching Contribution Savings Plan
- Communicators Federal Credit Union
- Wellness Program
- Child Care Discounts and Assistance Program
- Employee Recognition Program for Service

Universal Worker Inc
19 Holy Spirit Drive, Unit 2 - C New Domain Plaza
Don Antonio Heights, Commonwealth, Quezon City 1121
Phone 932-7858, 952-2302
Fax 952-0552
Email uwi@info.com.ph

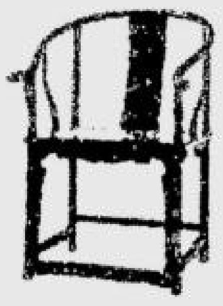
MANAGERIAL / TECHNICAL/PROFESSIONAL

Tomlinson
Singapore Malaysia Thailand Philippines

The Tomlinson Collection is the leading antique specialist oriental works of art in Southeast Asia. The Philippine branch is inviting applicants for the position of:

Assistant Gallery Manager

- Single, between 24-30 years old;
- Fluent in written and spoken English;
- Preferably with experience in sales and marketing;
- Willing to work 6 days a week and during weekends;
- Graduate of a highly reputable university.



We offer:

- A highly competitive compensation package;
- Opportunities to travel abroad;
- Highly specialized training in sales and marketing.

Submit your resumé with current passport-sized photo to:
40 Jupiter St., cor. Paseo de Roxas, Bel-Air Village, Makati
Tel/Fax: 890-9302/635-7421

We are the exclusive affiliate of a worldwide training and consulting organization providing results-oriented training and consulting services to Fortune 500 companies and top Philippine organizations. We have an immediate opening for:

Account Development Managers

Who

- *Can plan and implement account management strategies with our existing client base, and capitalize/leverage new business opportunities;*
- *Can initiate account development strategies with new client prospects;*
- *Can be a differentiating feature of doing business with existing clients and new prospects through superior consulting and value-added services;*
- *Can become an expert delivery resource for our training systems.*

The candidates we seek should have:

- *A minimum of 5 years sales and/or account development experience;*
- *A college degree, preferably from a reputable university;*
- *Track record in sales and account development*
- *Excellent communication skills (a must).*

To the successful applicants, we offer:

- *A competitive compensation package, plus a sales incentive and bonus plan;*
- *A car plan; and,*
- *Opportunity to develop management, leadership and professional selling skills.*

Please mail, fax or e-mail your resume and recent 2x2 photo to:

MEG. Inc. Unit 714 Globe Telecom Plaza
Madison cor. Pioneer Streets, Mandaluyong City
Fax 638.6990 e-mail: meginc@mkt. weblinq.com

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executive decisions

Client's Integrated Marketing Communications (IMC) Agency of Choice!!!

GRAPHICS ARTIST

Someone who sees life as one big art. Possible for either full-time or part-time arrangement.

Qualifications:

Not over 27 yrs. old,
male or female,
Proficient in the following computer programs such as adobe photoshop, illustrator, page maker, corel draw & 3D. with freehand talent.
Hardworker, trustworthy, team player.
Willing to grow with the company.

Successful applicant can look forward to an above industry compensation and benefit package.

Interested and qualified applicants may send their resumes with 2x2 size color photo and supporting documents (transcript &/or employment records) to:

HR and ADMIN. HEAD
Executive Decisions
3rd Floor Doña Segunda Building, 113 Kamuning Road, Quezon City
Trunk Lines: 413-6436/37 • 448-5396/98 • 925-4761

** Those with attitude problems need not to apply.*

Sony Life

Did you know!?

that SONY has a life insurance company?!!

Yes! There is a Sony Life Insurance Co. Ltd. We have been operating in Japan for more than 20 years and came here in the Philippines in the year 1998. We are a flagship company of Sony's financial business group and pursuing the standard of excellence like our peer Sony Group members such as Sony Electronics, Sony Music, Sony Pictures and Sony Playstation.

- ☐ **Ranked #1** in customer satisfaction in the Nikkei Business Survey.
- ☐ **Ranked #1** in net increase amount in in-force business.
- ☐ According to **Standard & Poors, "Sony Life is strengthening its market position** amid a difficult operating environment."

What is the secret of Sony Life's success?... Competitors wonder but the answer is simple:

- ☐ We don't assume that customers know how much protection they need.
- ☐ We can detect precisely how much protection customers need.
- ☐ We don't sell if we find customers have no needs.
- ☐ We know that customers' protection needs change from time to time.

How can we detect customers' needs precisely and accurately? It's a big wonder, but we have three (3) key concepts that explains everything:

- ☐ Financial Need Analysis (different method from others)
- ☐ Tailor-fitted Insurance Program
- ☐ Lifeplanner (totally different from other life insurance agents)

Career Opportunity

For those who want to know more about our secret, or are interested to join our Company, we will provide CIP - Career Information Program for you. **It's free of charge!**

BUT, not everybody can attend CIP. We will entertain only those who meet the following requirements:

- ☐ College graduate (our Lifeplanners are graduates of UP, Ateneo, De La Salle, Miriam College, UST, AIM, etc...)
- ☐ Age 30-45
- ☐ Currently earning more than P 40,000 a month
- ☐ No experience in life insurance/pre-need industry

You may send your resume to:

35/F PBCom Tower, 6795 Ayala Avenue cor Herrera St. Makati City or Fax it to 819-1803. For inquiries please call 819-6001.
Only qualified applicants will be contacted.

WANTED

AUTOMATION ENGINEER

- Not more than 35 years old
- Knowledge of PLC is a must
- Computer literate
- EE or ECE
- Experience with SCADA system is advantage

Qualified applicants are invited to send their resumé to:

Box Code ST-1125
c/o Classified Ads Division
Philippine Daily Inquirer
5th Flr., Bldg. B, EDSA
Mandaluyong City
Email: systemo@info.com.ph

Quickly 快可立

A unique concept with a "KICK"

QUICKLY (Kuaikeli) International is a highly reputable in the Taiwan Beverage Industry. We are credited for the success of Milk Tea in Taiwan and have obtained the *National Excellence Award in 1997 conferred by the National Consumer Association of Taiwan.* QUICKLY has over 1,000 franchise outlets in the *U.S., Singapore, Thailand, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, China, Japan and now in the Philippines.* Quickly offers delicious and healthy beverage variants like Blended Ice, Brewed Ice Tea, Blended Brewed Ice Tea, Blended Milk Tea, Shake Fruit, Tofu/Pudding and Iced Fruit Juice. If you are Result-Oriented and a Good Team Player, we invite you to join our Team as :

FRANCHISE RELATIONS ASSISTANT (CODE : FRA)

- Male or Female between 24 to 35 years old
- High level of business maturity and judgment (at least 2 years work experience)
- Graduate of Marketing, Economics or any business course
- Computer proficient
- Possesses good communications skills (written and verbal)
- Comfortable with interacting directly with different levels of people in the organization
- Has the ability / desire to work in a relatively unstructured and fast-paced environment and gain a holistic business perspective.
- Analytical & Detailed person
- Must be willing to do field work
- Must be a patient, good in negotiation & presentation skills.
- Highly motivated and has a good work attitude.
- Self-starter and can work with minimum supervision

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT (CODE : BDA)

- Male or Female between 24 to 35 years old
- At least two years intensive work experience
- Graduate of Marketing, Economics or any business course
- Computer proficient.
- Preferably with previous market research experience
- Possesses good communications skills (written and verbal)
- Highly motivated and has a good work attitude.
- Analytical and well-versed in market trends.
- Self-starter and can work with minimum supervision

MARKETING SERVICES ASSISTANT (CODE : MSA)

- Male or Female between 22 to 28 years old
- At least two years work experience
- Graduate of Marketing, Economics, Com-Arts, or any business course
- Computer proficient and highly creative
- Possesses good communications skills (written and verbal)
- Analytical.
- Self-starter and can work with minimum supervision

JR. ACCOUNTANT/FINANCE ANALYST

- Male or Female between 22 to 28 years old
- At least two years work experience in the same capacity
- Graduate of Accounting or Banking & Finance
- Computer proficient
- Analytical & Detailed person
- Good written/oral communications skill
- Knowledgeable in preparation of Financial Statement
- Self-starter and can work with minimum supervision

We offer above industry compensation and benefits to qualified applicants. Interested parties may send in their comprehensive resume indicating desire compensation package with 2 pcs of 2x2 picture and transcript of record to:

The Human Resources Department
QUICKLY
1841 Carba Building, C.M. Recto, Sampaloc, Manila
Fax# 735-2518
E-mail: quickly@mindgate.net

RDS
ROBINSONS DEPARTMENT STORE

DEPARTMENT HEADS

(Cavite, Laguna, Pampanga & Metro Manila)

- Assists the Store Manager in implementing excellent customer service and merchandise presentation.
- Must possess strong leadership skills. Can effectively lead a team of store personnel and willing to work long hours in shifting schedules.
- Experience in customer service oriented companies like retail and fastfood stores is an advantage.
- Reports to the Store Manager.
- Willing to work on weekends and holidays

Interested parties may send their comprehensive resumes with photo to:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
110 E. Rodrigues Jr. Avenue, Libis Quezon City

E-mail address: rsc-tdg@i-manila .com.ph
Telephone Nos: 3950032/ 6350751 local 115 to118

URGENTLY NEEDED
by a
LEADING SECURITY SERVICES GROUP

DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS

- Male, between 35 to 40 years old;
- Degree holder in Business, Law or Military Science;
- With minimum 5 years middle management experience in a service company;
- Customer-oriented, decisive, resourceful and energetic;
- With strong leadership qualities and unquestionable integrity.

A compensation package of P650,000.00 per annum awaits the successful candidate.

Fax comprehensive resumé at 7244975 or send letter of application, comprehensive resumé and 2x2 colored picture to:

The President
BCC House, 537 Shaw Boulevard
Mandaluyong City

EXCITING CAREER OPPORTUNITY
AN INTERNATIONAL
HEALTH & BEAUTY COMPANY
IS IN NEED OF

Retail Sales & Marketing Coordinators
Retail Sales & Marketing Supervisors

- Previous experience in similar field preferred but not essential
- Self-motivating
- Excellent communication skills
- With strong leadership and initiative
- Computer literate
- .Female

EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY AND COMPENSATION PACKAGE AWAITS SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

Please send or mail your resumé not later than Dec. 14, 2001 to:

#78 15th Avenue, Murphy, Cubao, Quezon City
E-mail: bodynsoul@skyinet.net

Occupational Health Consultant

A multi-national company is in need of an Occupational Health Consultant in the area of Industrial Health, Safety and Environment on a one (1) year contractual basis.

The main challenge of the position is to provide high quality Occupational Health support for the various operations of the company. The consultant will be involved in the development and implementation of the different health policies and programs of the company.

Interested applicants should have:

- A Medical Degree;
- License to Practice from the Professional Regulations Commission;
- A Masteral Degree in Occupational Health;
- At least three (3) years experience in the practice of Occupational Health in an industry;
- Computer literacy;
- Mobility is an advantage.

Qualified candidates are encouraged to send their resumés to:

P.O. Box 1174 MCC 1251, Makati City
Code: OHC-1201

Deadline of submission is on December 21, 2001

(Replies will be sent to qualified applicants only.)

RDS

ROBINSONS DEPARTMENT STORE

STORE MANAGER

(Pampanga)

- Responsible for the overall operations of the store which includes effective implementation of customer service, merchandise display, personnel management and inventory control.
- Must possess strong leadership skills to effectively direct a team of store personnel.
- With at least 3 years experience in store management.
- Reports to the AVP-Operations.
- Willing to work on weekends and holidays

Interested parties may send their comprehensive resumes with photo to:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
110 E. Rodrigues Jr. Avenue, Libis Quezon City

E-mail address: rsc-tdg@i-manila .com.ph
Telephone Nos: 3950032, 6350751 local 115 to118

CALL RESOURCES and DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS, INC.

New Products Division

We are currently searching for **Account Executives** with a passion for the Internet:

- ➤ Will be responsible for developing and managing accounts or a segment of various accounts
- ➤ Are customer-oriented and understand the account management process, with the ability to deliver presentations and negotiate with high level executives
- ➤ Should have a good grasp of the customers' type of business and are capable of enhancing their sales and marketing programs
- ➤ Must be able to reach sales targets and expand the client base of the company

Job Requirements

- Graduate of any 4-year college course
- Internet/I.T. sales experience an advantage but not necessary
- Excellent presentation and writing skills
- People-oriented
- Resourceful and can work with minimum supervision
- Computer literate

If you're interested, please email your résumé to
careers.callresource@100.ph

or send it to
CALL RESOURCES and DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS, INC.
8th Floor DPC Place,
2322 Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo Extension),
1231 Makati City

Your career might only be a click of the mouse away.

JOBMarket ONLINE
www.jobmarketonline.com

Pfizer

Pfizer, Inc. is a research based company that creates breakthrough health care products. It leads in the cardiovascular, central nervous system, anti-infectives, analgesics and urological markets by growing existing products and successfully launching new ones. Today, it is the 4th most valued company and the largest pharmaceutical company in the world. Pfizer is among the top pharmaceutical companies, and has posted the fastest growth rate in the industry.

We are one of the country's best employers. We offer a compensation package competitive with those of the leading players in the industry. Our leadership and people practices create an excellent environment for personal and professional growth. Pfizer, Inc. is simply a great place to work in!

Hewitt
BEST EMPLOYERS IN ASIA

Pfizer, Inc.- voted one of the Best Employers in the Philippines

The Job

SUPPLY CHAIN OFFICER

The job holder will handle supply planning of finished goods for a group of consumer health care products. This includes coordination of production with local toll manufacturers as well as overseas Pfizer affiliates. The Supply Chain Officer will also be responsible for the replenishment of inventory at the distributor level, processing of distributor sales orders and validation of product returns; including administration of the flow of inventory and information across the supply chain for the assigned products.

The Qualifications

- Has a Bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering, Pharmacy or related field
- Minimum 2 years' work experience in production planning or any related field in a manufacturing company
- Possesses a keen eye for detail; highly-organized and results oriented; proficient in computer applications

Interested parties may send resumes to:

Human Resources Division
23/F Ayala Life-FGU Center
6875 Ayala Avenue, Makati City

Or you could submit by email via our website,
http://www.pfizer.com.ph

If you are
.... single, male, 20 to 30 years old
.... college graduate

and posses the following:
.... good communication skills
and interpersonal skills
....capability to drive
.... willingness to travel from
time to time
.... strong determination to succeed and has the ability to have fun in everything you do.

Up for Challenge?

JOIN OUR POWERFUL SALES TEAM

What's in store for you?

We give our employees opportunities to explore their potentials by offering them an environment that will give them the chance to learn the latest trends and techniques in SALES.

Thus, this will equip them in handling a MANAGEMENT position upon successful completion of the training program.

APPLY NOW !!!

Corporate Recruitment
RAMCAR CENTER
80-82 Roces Avenue,
Diliman, Quezon City

* Previous applicants need not apply

Stores Specialist, Inc.

IS IN NEED OF HIGH CALIBER CANDIDATES FOR

BRAND MANAGERS (Code: S-BrM)

- ➤ Between 26 to 35 years old
- ➤ Degree in Business, preferably in Marketing or Economics, an MBA degree or units is an advantage
- ➤ Minimum of two (2) years experience in product management and development of consumer products in a managerial capacity
- ➤ With excellent communication skills

TECHNICAL SERVICES MANAGER (Code: S-TSM)

- ➤ Between 27 to 40 years old
- ➤ Must be a Licensed Interior Designer or Architect
- ➤ Must have been involved in store design
  - ✓ Note: Please submit portfolio of works especially on store design
- ➤ Must be able to develop standards for Interior Design and Architectural works
- ➤ Must have at least two (2) years experience in handling renovation works including bidding and evaluation, program scheduling, inspection and quality control
- ➤ Must have excellent oral and written communication skills
- ➤ Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality
- ➤ Must be computer literate, specifically capable to design in Autocad

BOUTIQUE MANAGERS (Code: S-BM)

- ➤ Between 24 to 35 years old
- ➤ Graduate of a (4) four-year degree course
- ➤ Preferably with work experience in store operations
- ➤ Must be proficient in both oral and written communication
- ➤ Must be willing to work on weekends and holidays
- ➤ Must be customer-oriented
- ➤ Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality
- ➤ Must be computer literate

CORPORATE PLANNING MANAGER (Code: S-CPM)

- ➤ Between 27 to 40 years old
- ➤ Graduate of a (4) four-year business related course, preferably an MBA or has extensive studies in Business Administration, Operations Research, Retail Management
- ➤ With a meritorious professional experience in Corporate Planning
- ➤ With strong analytical, interpersonal and communication skills
- ➤ Must be computer literate

Please send your application with contact numbers indicated, transcript of records and a recent 2x2 photo through mail to:

Personnel Department
STORES SPECIALISTS, INC.
4th Floor, Midland Buendia Building
#403 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City

(Only qualified applicants will be scheduled for an interview)

PLEASE INDICATE POSITION CODE

Provident
COMPUTER CONSULTANTS, INC.

The Manila-based offshore systems development office of U.S.-based Pinkerton Computer Consultants, Inc. is in need of the following:

- **Analyst/Programmer** with at least **2 years experience** in programming on a **Unix** environment using **C, C++, RDBMS** (preferably **Sybase**), and must be knowledgeable in **Unix shell scripts.** Knowledge of **Perl** is a plus.
- **Analyst Programmer** with at least **3 years experience** in programming on a mainframe environment using **COBOL, CICS, DB2, MVS, JCL & utilities.** Knowledge of **IDMS** is a plus.

Applicants for the aforementioned positions should have an **Engineering or Computer Science** degree, possess good interpersonal and communication skills, and are willing to travel.

We offer excellent growth opportunities and a competitive compensation package. Interested candidates may send their resumé via the following:

Mail/deliver to:

Administrative Manager
Provident Computer Consultants, Inc.
4th flr. PCCI Bldg., 118 L.P. Leviste St.
Salcedo Village, Makati City 1227

Or E-mail to: **pccljob@pcclnet.com**

MEDICard PHILS INC.

Rx MEDICard

One of the country's leading HMO is looking for assertive,
dynamic and energetic individuals to fill up the following vacancies:

• PHILHEALTH OFFICER

- Graduate of B.S. Accountancy;
- Between 25 to 35 years of age;
- Must have at least 1 year related work experience gained in HMO or insurance setting;
- Computer literate with good interpersonal skills.

• VISUAL BASIC PROGRAMMER

- Graduate of four (4) years Computer related course;
- With 2 years programming experience;
- Working knowledge in MS SQL Server is an advantage.

• MARKETING ASSISTANT

- Graduate of any Medical course or BS Marketing;
- Must be able to relate well with all levels of the organization;
- Must be computer literate and can work with minimum supervision.

Qualified and interested applicants are requested to apply personally. Bring resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 photo at: Medicard Phils., Inc.: Human Resources Department - 5/F Sagittarius Bldg., H.V. Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. Email us at rsalmon@medicardphils.com

(Previous applicants need not apply)

Aventis

Aventis Pasteur

A world leader in vaccines with the broadest range of products, particularly handling adult and pediatric human vaccines and plasma protein. Currently, our Company is in need of:

MEDICAL SALES REPRESENTATIVES

Your mission will be – To consistently achieve annual budget through effective promotion of all Aventis Pasteur Products.

Your qualifications must be – A graduate of any 4-year paramedical course, with at least one (1) year sales experience. You must be proficient in both oral and written communication and with pleasing personality. You must also be willing to be assigned anywhere in the Philippines.

Please submit your Curriculum Vitae to:

THE HR & ADMIN DEPARTMENT
Gammon House, 110 Rada St.,
Legaspi Village, Makati City

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a
career
online.

JOBMarket ONLINE

www.jobmarketonline.com

JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR FACTORY PERSONNEL

ACCRE. CERT. NO. 58248-3

A LEADING MANUFACTURING CONCERN IN DAMMAM, SAUDI ARABIA REQUIRES THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:

SR. CHEMIST B.S.C. in Chemistry or Chemical Engineer with advance studies in polymer chemistry and/or paint technology required. Five (5) years experience in manufacturing or paint resins, with extensive studies in R&D, product formulation and manufacturing specially in reactor manufacturing of latex, PVA, modified acrylics, adhesive and bonding agents. Must have ability to work independently and good communication skills.

CHEMIST B.Sc in Chemistry or Chemical Engineer. At least three (3) years experience in industrial coating paint formulation with a major paint/coating manufacturer in products development and manufacturing. Must have ability to work independently and good communication skills.

LABORATORY TECHNICIAN Diploma from reliable technical institute, with at least 2 years experience.

SAFETY ENGR. B.Sc in Industrial Hygiene / Chemistry or Chemical Engineer plus courses, seminars and training in industrial safety procedures, firefighting procedures / techniques & environmental protection. Five (5) years at supervisory level with a manufacturing company preferably in petroleum or petro-chemicals related industry. Must be able to organize and manage safety, fire-fighting and environmental protection program.

Interested applicants are requested to report personally to:

MACCEL MANPOWER AGENCY
RM. 602 GLC BLDG., T.M. KALAW ST.,
CORNER A. MABINI ST., ERMITA, MANILA
Manila Philippines
Tel. No. 521-6654

FOR MANPOWER POOLING ONLY, NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED
THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS APPROVED BY POEA
"MAG-INGAT SA ILLEGAL RECRUITER"
MEMBER: PASEI

BELLESTAR

WORLDCLASS HOMEGROWN ENTERTAINMENT

IS IN NEED OF:

LAWYER

- with at least 3 years experience in actual litigation work
- graduate of a reputable law school
- at least 30 years old
- willing to work on a full-time basis

ANALYST/PROGRAMMER

- graduate of B.S. Computer Engineering/B.S. Computer Science
- has at least 3 years experience in programming
- with good interpersonal communication skills
- not more than 35 years old

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

- single (at least 30 years old)
- college graduate (preferably B.S. Commerce)
- with good command in English (oral & written)
- at least 3 years experience as Executive Secretary
- with pleasing personality
- with good interpersonal skills

Interested party may submit their comprehensive resumé with contact number and most recent 2x2 photo:

To: **Ms. Bernadine Marie Marcial**
Address: **1709 Piy Margal St., Sampaloc, Manila**
Tel. No.: **749-9313 / 732-1999**

WANTED IMMEDIATELY AT PS BANK OFFICE

PS Bank Tower
Suite 2104, 21st floor
Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City
(Beside Makati Post Office)

WE NEED:

- College graduates of at least 4-year course from reputable schools and universities
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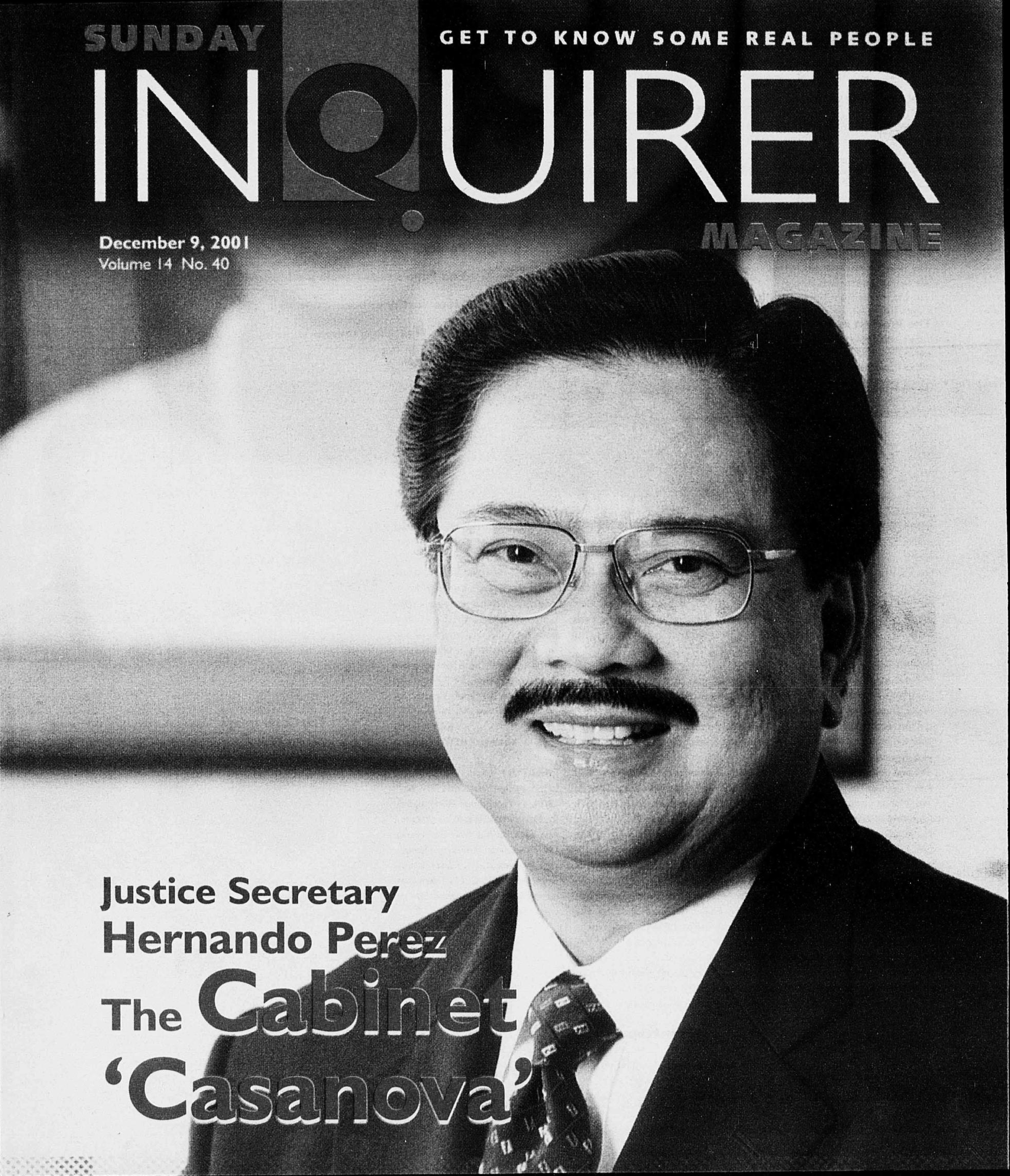
SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE

GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

December 9, 2001
Volume 14 No. 40



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BRITNEY, NOT MADONNA

Jeanne Young should not worry much about scantily clad women like Madonna on MTV (**SIM**, 28 October 2001). Madonna is passé, and she's no longer the idol of the young. Jeanne should worry more about "Breastney" Spears, who has claimed that she is a slave to just about every guy in town.

MITCH R. CONFESOR
Buhangin, Davao City
timesmen@mozcom.com

INSULT TO THE PAJA

It was an insult to read about Jerry Diño's death and accolade (**SIM**, 14 October 2001). At first, we were so proud that Jerry was extolled by your writers Frank Cimatu and Desiree Caluza.

On further reading, we found out how incorrect the article was. Please tell your writers to do some research before embarrassing people and the Philippine Amateur Judo Association.

The first time judo was included as an Olympic event in 1964, we already had four Filipinos. They were: Bernardo Repuyan, Sampaloc Judo Club; Thomas Tan, Mapua Institute of Technology Judo Club; Narzal Garcia, Dragon Judo Club; and Vicente Uematsu, Mapua Institute of Technology Judo Club.

In the next Olympic Games in 1968, 1972 and 1976, Geronimo Dyogi, the best Filipino lightweight judoka Cesar Puertellano and Rene Repuyan participated, and twice reached the semifinal rounds. Dyogi also won fifth place in World Judo Championships before migrating to the USA.

Jerry Diño has no problem with Philippine Amateur Judo Association. In fact, every now and then he would go down from Baguio to consult with me, with the promise that he would convince his group to respect PAJA's policy and the judo teachings of humility, respect and discipline. As a true judoka who had actual training in Japan, he knew about humility, respect and discipline. Every now and then he would reiterate his respect for PAJA and extend apologies for some misconceptions from his group about PAJA's role over CAR-Chapter and Baguio Judo Clubs. He was a symbol of a true, yielding and respectful judoka.

REYNALDO H. JAYLO
President
Philippine Amateur Judo Association, Inc.

ENOUGH ALREADY

Doesn't anyone get tired of that overrated UAAP finals game between La Salle and Ateneo? Okay, the game was entertaining and well fought, but enough is enough. It was long over, and an article about it was plain annoying and shows how poorly run this magazine is. And to think this magazine is actually part of the INQUIRER! There are a lot more worthwhile things to cover, so please spare the readers more media mileage about that game.

RAYMOND
slazengerBOY@go.com

ERRATUM

In the article "Poor Little Rich Boy" (**SIM**, 11 November 2001), author Joy Rojas would like to clarify that it was Rapi Revilla who discovered Carlos Agassi at TGIFriday's Restaurant five years ago. Carlos is now managed by ABS-CBN's Talent Center under Johnny Manahan. SIM regrets the error.

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The Cover Image Does Justice Secretary Hernando Perez really deserve his reputation as the Cabinet's Ladies Man? *Cover photograph courtesy of Teddy Montelibano*

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Music
by Rodolfo A. C. Silvestre Jr.

Tots Tolentino and Jong Cuenco may not be household names but beyond the star hype and gimmickry, it's accomplished instrumentalists like them who give backbone to the Filipino music scene

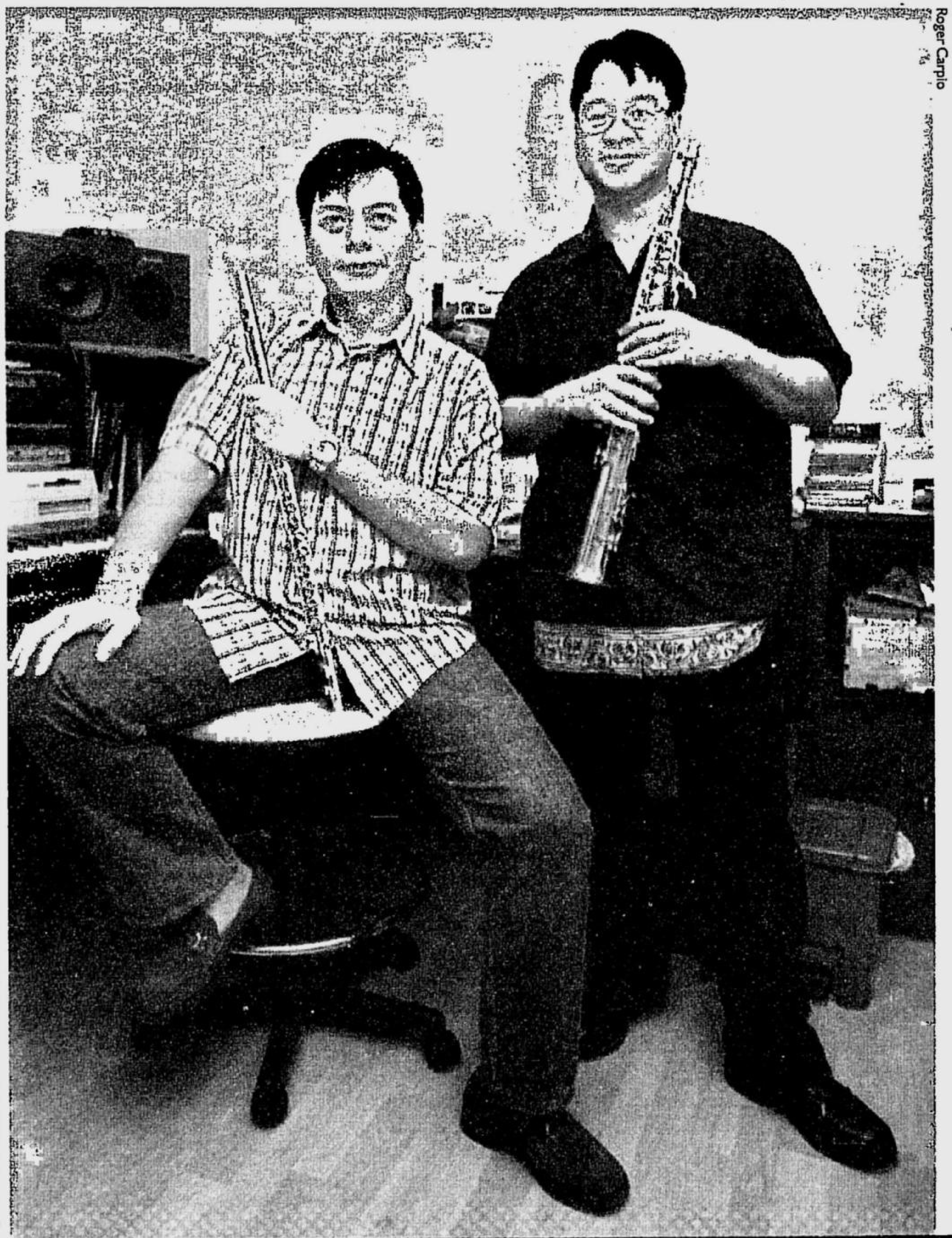
Nothing But the Music

IN THIS COUNTRY OF CONCERT GOERS, THEIR NAMES HAVE NOT ACHIEVED THE EMINENCE OF GARY OR POPS, MARTIN OR LANI. JONG WHO? TOTS WHO? IF YOU'RE NOT A MUSIC AFICIONADO, YOU WOULD NOT KNOW FLUTIST JONG CUENCO OR SAXOPHONIST TOTS TOLENTINO.

Jong's father is well known. He is Ernani Cuenco Sr., the late national artist who composed classics like "*Gaano Kita Kamahal*" and "*Bato sa Buhangin*." On the other hand, it is Tots' grandfather, unparalleled debater and expert constitutionalist Arturo Tolentino Sr., whose name is brightly etched in the annals of Philippine politics.

"But I have long been resigned to the fact that vocalists are the ones who become popular," Tots says.

Jong and Tots in their element



Roger Carpio

"They have reached the heights, while we instrumentalists are left hanging, neither up there, nor down below. But come to think of it, many vocalists have come and gone. And I find myself still here," says Jong.

True enough, years after they respectively launched their musical careers, Jong and Tots continue to work in the music scene. Their names do not occupy top billing, and their tapes and CDs do not necessarily sell like April Boy's or Aiza's, but they're here, alright. And if their dedication and professional constancy were the primary consideration, it would be safe to say their music will always be here to accompany candlelit dinners, soulful meditations, or a drive to the office.

Once in a while, though, we get to see them perform live. St. Scholastica's College is the venue for the concert "Four Friends and A Lady" on December 15, and playing with Tots and Jong are two other friends, violinist John Lesaca and keyboardist Toti Fuentes, with jazz diva Anna Fegi as their muse.

To use a much abused characterization, Jong and Tots are definitely "*totoong tao*" (genuine people). They do not consider fame as their birthright. Not even if Jong has music flowing in his blood. Aside from his musician father, his mother Nena is also a classical pianist. Expectedly, he and his brother took piano lessons early. "And how I hated it, because that meant less time for playing with other children. When there were visitors at home or we attended reunions, we provided the entertainment. And this could be irritating to a young person," Jong recalls.

Nevertheless, he continued with the lessons and eventually shifted to flute. Ironically, his father wanted him to become a lawyer, so right after high school, he enrolled in economics as his pre-law course. But he only survived for a semester. Soon, he approached his teacher Eric Barcelo at the UP College of Music and enrolled. This flustered his father further, as he had not only charted out a different life for his son, but also because he was a professor at a different school, the University of Sto. Tomas Conservatory of Music.

Jong reasoned out that at UP, "I would be on my own. The pressure would be too much at UST with my father there, so it would be a shame if I failed. But if I passed, they would think it was because of him."

Tots' entry into the music world had been quite a surprise. His parents, both doctors, were never musical. As a high school student, he tinkered with musical instruments only because his friends had them. Tots doesn't even remember why he checked "music" when he filled out his application form for the UP College Admission Test. "I passed the UPCAT and so they had to take me in, even if I couldn't even read notes."

His first choice had been the flute. "And I had to plod along. I knew I could play because I soon discovered that music was in me all along. But the theories were something else."

As for his parents, Arturo Jr. and Emma, they had initially warned him about music not exactly assuring him of a lucrative income. But seeing his determination, they decided to support him all the way. They were the ones who broached the idea that since he had shifted to saxophone and taken an interest in jazz, he should study in the USA, where he could learn a lot from the jazz masters.

So, off Tots went to Boston's Berklee College. His roommate was Louie Ocampo, eventually a successful composer and musical director. Like everyone else, he also did odd jobs in the States, but not forgetting that

Gathering the Word

UP honors its own—and invites everyone else—at this year's Writer's Night

Writers all in a row: Virgilio Almario, Mariel Francisco, Gilda Cordero Fernando, National Artists Nick Joaquin and Francisco Arcellana, and Jing Hidaldo during the inaugural Writer's Night in 1995

FOR WRITERS, ANY KIND OF GATHERING IS ALREADY A CELEBRATION OF THE WRITTEN WORD. THE YEARLY WRITER'S NIGHT HAS THUS BECOME THE PERFECT NIGHTCAP FOR A YEAR IN WRITING. RUN BY LIKHAAN: THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES CREATIVE WRITING CENTER, WRITER'S NIGHT BRINGS TOGETHER WRITERS YOUNG AND OLD, ACCOMPLISHED AND NEOPHYTE, IN AN EVENING OF STORIES, SONGS AND FOOD.

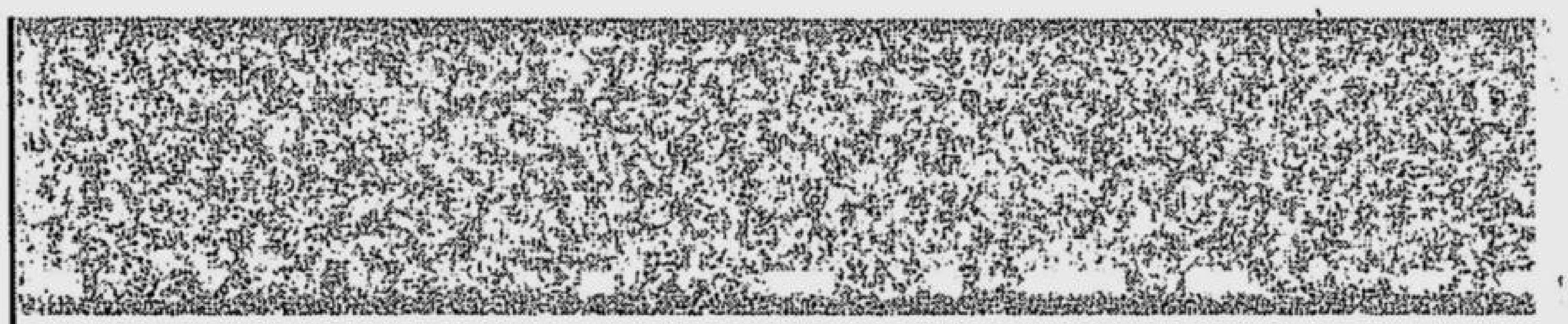
This year, the 7th Writer's Night is sponsored by the UP President himself, Dr. Francisco Nemenzo, and will be held at the UP Executive House at the UP Diliman campus on December 13, Thursday with festivities starting at 6 p.m. This year's event celebrates the awards won and books published by the faculty and students of the university for 2000 and 2001.

It has obviously been a good year for UP's writers as Nemenzo himself is the recipient of a National Book Award for his book of essays. Among the UP writers who gained honors in the last two years are Leoncio Deriada and Jose Y. Dalisay (Carlos Palanca Hall of Fame Award), Angelo "Sarge" Lacuesta (Madrigal-Gonzalez Best First Book Award), Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo (Gawad Balagtas from the Writer's Union of the Philippines), Jun Cruz Reyes, Roland Tolentino, Ricardo de Ungria and Jose "Pete" Lacaba (National Book Award), Charlson Ong (NVM Gonzalez Best Short Story Award) and Socorro Villanueva (NVM Gonzalez Best First Published Short Story Award).

Likhaan Director Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo explains that Writer's Night is "an occasion for writers to get together and touch base when they are usually unable to do so during the year. It's also an opportunity to celebrate their common commitment to literature."

In the past, the Writer's Night had been home to bazaars and auctions and had been held at its traditional venue at the Balay Kalinaw as well as the Filipinas Heritage Library and the '70s Bistro. This year it moves to the Executive House, but as always, it is a reunion for the talented fellows of UP's 39 past National Writing Workshops and a simple get-together for all those who have befriended the written word and have been befriended in return. Wacky hosts Ed Cabagnot and Gugu de Jesus return to hurl both terms of endearment and barbs at the gathering.

Ruel S. De Vera



he was there to get a professional diploma, which he did after three years.

When Tots returned to the country in 1984, "I was surprised because it looked so different. It was literally dark, right after Ninoy was assassinated. I didn't know if I had a future as a musician, but I told myself that if this talent had been given to me by God, then He would take care of me and allow me to use it."

In 1983, Jong was an outstanding music student at UP, even bagging a scholarship for himself. Along the way, he would distinguish himself in music-related activities, including being elected president of the Philippine Youth Orchestra. But Jong took a detour. "I got enamored with show business. So, I became one of the sidekicks of Randy Santiago."

Jong moved so much around the entertainment circles that Randy's father, the director Pablo Santiago, noticing his looks, even told him, "You slim down and I will give you a break in the movies."

"I took it seriously, so I went on a diet. When I was finally down to 190 lbs from 285, and was ready for a movie career, I approached talent manager Bibsy Carballo. *Ang lakas ng loob ko*," chuckles Jong. "I told her I could act, sing and play the flute. And since there were already a lot of actors and singers, she decided to launch me as a flutist."

Jong's launch as a solo artist was in a concert at the Alegria Lounge of the Manila Pavilion. Also in the full house audience was his UP mentor Eric Barcelo, who must have realized by then that the world of classical music was losing a would-be master.

Tots, meanwhile, "culture shocked" as he was, touched base with his musician friends, including Louie Ocampo. "He'd use me for his productions, shows and recordings, and that got me going."

In 1990, Tots had his first solo gig. It was a promotional campaign for a cigarette. He went all over the country, where he performed not just in classy venues but also in public places.

For both Jong and Tots, the harvest had been quite fruitful. The hotel and bar circuit, as well as provincial jaunts, have kept their respective careers vigorous through the years. Of course, they've had their share of gold awards from their recordings, and citations for live performances.

Jong performed in the Paul Anka concert, the Miss Universe Pageant presentations, and various concerts with First Lady Amelita Ramos. Expectedly, he has done shows abroad, such as the Philippine Week in Taiwan and the Hong Kong Handover Asian Extravaganza.

Tots, on the other hand, has been active as a member of the Asian Jazz All Stars which has traveled extensively all over Asia and North America. He has accompanied Julia Fordham in her local concerts, and has represented the country in various jazz festivals all over the world. He was also a featured artist of the CCP All-Filipino Series.

"I know how it is to perform in a fully-packed theater, but I've also seen an empty house," Tots admits. "But that is the Philippine music scene, and I have come to appreciate what life gives me. It makes one realize that an artist may be here today but tomorrow, he may be gone."

The scene has certainly had its share of ups and downs. There have been glorious moments when Filipino audiences packed the performances of solo instrumentalists like Eddie K., Tadao Hayashi, Joselito Pascual, and the young ones like Tots and Jong. But the entry of the bands somehow diminished the interest in solo instrumentalists.

The trend encouraged the instrumentalists to band together. And that was how Four Friends was born. Along with Tots and Jong, John Lesaca and Tateng Katindig had formed the group. Their first project was a give-away recording of a pharmaceutical company. Soon, they were jamming regularly. Tateng eventually left for foreign shores, but he was soon replaced by Toti Fuentes.

For Tots and Jong, it will be another night of giving their all, as they are wont to do in all their performances. "If only for the pleasure we give our listeners, it would be worth sticking it out, no matter that they recognize our music more than our names," Tots sums it all up.

"Four Friends and A Lady" goes onstage at the St. Scholastica's College on December 15. Tickets are available at National Bookstores, Robinsons Galleria, Tower Records and Ticketworld (8915610). For reservations, call 413-8757, 361-5041 or 536-9137.

In Memoriam

by Lira Dalangin

Could she have lived had she been given immediate medical attention? A year after the death of Miriam student-turned-revolutionary Vivian Torralba (a.k.a. Bambi Santos) in an army raid, her parents still ponder the fate of their only child

Snuffed Out

NO BELLS TOLLED FOR 26-YEAR-OLD ARMINDA "BAMBI" SANTOS WHEN SHE DIED. ONLY THE BURST OF MACHINE GUN FIRE THAT SNUFFED OUT HER LIFE ON OCTOBER 7, 2000, IN AN OBSCURE BARRIO IN PAGADIAN CITY IN WESTERN MINDANAO.

Bambi (whose real name was Vivian Torralba), a coordinator of mass campaign and cultural activities of the cause-oriented group Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) left for Zamboanga del Sur in June 2000 to explore the uncharted territories of the countryside. She wanted to understand the struggles of the peasants by actually living among them.

I was in Cagayan de Oro City a day after the incident and was immediately assigned by Bayan the grim task of identifying Bambi's body. Passing through the military red tape to secure permits and other papers was a tedious job. The last time I did this for Bambi was in college at Miriam, when I was left to fill in both our registration and enrollment forms. In jest, she said: "The next time I bother you about the paper mill, it would be for my wedding." I remembered all these while handing the embalmer an off-white fluffy gown donated by a doctor in Pagadian, to be used as Bambi's final garb during her wake.

It was in a tiny office in Miriam College where I first met Bambi. Both writers for the college publication Chi-Rho, we shared a common vision for the paper and for the school. Bambi rose to be one of the best editors the paper had. And for turning out to be a critical voice for the students, Chi-Rho's editors became frequent guests at the Dean's office. But as always, it was Bambi who was our defense lawyer.

After college came a time of reckoning. I decided to write, she chose to work with the people. Back in college, many of our batch mates thought she would gravitate towards the world of advertising or journalism, having an intrinsic aptitude for writing and public relations. But Bambi longed for a sense of fulfillment beyond what a lucrative 9 to 5 job could give. As a volunteer, she joined a group promoting the rights of cultural minorities. In June 1994, she transferred to the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines and continued her work in human rights advocacy with the group Karapatan. In 1998, she moved on to Bayan.

Bambi's parents, Nemesio, a retired geologist, and Leticia, a government-employed chemist, disapproved of her joining cause-oriented groups. Often, this headstrong woman would pretend to stay at home, only to leave as soon as her parents left for the office. But on Sundays, Bambi would come home with dirty linen in tow. It was enough for *nanay* and *tatay*. For their only child, they would prepare a sumptuous lunch of chicken and potato salad, with *tatay* buying Bambi's favorite strawberry or mango ice cream for dessert. The ref was also regularly stocked with fresh milk, chocolate drinks, hotdogs and dark Swiss chocolates, all for her consumption.

Bambi's strong character often clashed with her mother's similarly formidable personality. But she remained such a baby to her *tatay* that her departure for Mindanao worsened his health. To appease her parents, she hatched up a plan for a friend to deliver ready-made letters and greeting cards to her parents during appropriate occasions.

During her wake, this trusted friend gave her mother a folder full of undelivered letters and cards, each one carefully dated according to the occasion. Knowing it would be her first Christmas and her first birthday away from home, Bambi wrote, "I'll be celebrating Christmas with you, wherever I am."

Such gestures came naturally to Bambi. As an organizer for Bayan, she was able to tap artists in various fields, for whom she became "impresario, terror teacher, confessor and counselor." But it was her natural gift for laughter that softened the severity of an activist's life. "She is serious but irreverent and brought a gleam to the jaded eyes of even those best described as 'grim and determined,' " observes one friend.

"What was Bambi doing in Mindanao?" her friends asked when they learned of her tragic death. I could only answer, "Perhaps doing research." Where she was in Western Mindanao is heavily militarized, perhaps to protect the mining firms that were stripping away this rich land.

Every now and then, different couriers would send messages on yellow paper or used calendars from Bambi. In the months before her death, her letters would be written in pure Visayan dialect, inspiring awe at how fast she managed to get rid of the middle-class twang.

Then came the surprise raid by the Army. It was early morning of Saturday, October 7, 2000 when Bambi met five members of the New People's Army while conducting an interview in Barangay Fatima, San Miguel, Zamboanga del Sur. The armed men questioned Bambi's presence in the area, and satisfied with her reply, invited her to join them in the adjacent barangay in Sayog, where she could interview more residents.

Where it began: At Miriam College's Chi-Rho office in 1994: (L to R) The author, editor Jerome Gomez and Bambi Santos

It was almost noon when they reached Barangay Sayog and had to request a resident to allow them to eat their lunch in his hut. It was not yet known who informed the Army about the presence of the NPAs in the hut. But a few minutes after, elements of the Army's 51st Infantry Battalion came to the hut and opened fire.

The bullets entered and exited Bambi's body. But according to the autopsy report by the Commission on Human Rights, the multiple gunshot wounds did not cause her death. It was loss of blood that did.

While the strafing ended at about 12:30 p.m., according to eyewitness accounts, Bambi and the other victim, Joy, arrived at the San Miguel town proper two hours later. There, they were paraded like the day's catch and interrogated while they bled to death. Intimidated by the military, the helpless residents could only look on as the two were hurled at the back of the military jeep and taken, not to the nearest hospital some 20 minutes away, but to Pagadian district hospital at 5:30 p.m. There was no way that the two would make it to the city alive.

News of Bambi's death spread like wildfire through text messages, telephone and e-mail. Hundreds of her friends and relatives braved the heavy traffic in Lagro, Novaliches to condole with her parents and pay tribute to Bambi.

On October 8 this year, Nemesio and Leticia filed a complaint before the Commission on Human Rights to investigate the death of Bambi. Knowing their daughter to be strong-willed and determined, they wondered what would have happened had she and Joy been given immediate medical attention instead of being interrogated. The military seemed to have forgotten the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Laws, which it signed with the National Democratic Front.

Still, to those who knew Bambi, no indignity could dim the idealism of her life.

All in the Game

by Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Tsing Tsong Tsai may have debuted as a goon in an Erap movie, but his true vocation is a more noble one: to train Olympic-class athletes

Real Life Toughie

IN THE 1970S, A MOVIE ACTOR NAMED JOSEPH ESTRADA, FRESH FROM HIS SUCCESS WITH "ERAP IS MY GUY" (CO-STARRING AN UPSTART SINGER NAMED NORA AUNOR) AND *"ANDER DE SAYA SI* ERAP," WAS ABOUT TO MAKE A MOVIE ON THE BINONDO CARTEL.

Estrada was choosing between two Chinese-Filipinos who were high school classmates. One was basketball star Fortunato "Atoy" Co, then already famous for his deadly shooting, while the other was Tan Sui Tong Candelaria, the Asian sanshou champion.

Estrada chose Candelaria, and "Dragnet" became one of his best-selling movies of all time.

Candelaria appeared in 70 other movies, including "Mediavillo" and *"Ganito Kami Noon, Paano Kayo Ngayon,"* but never again with Estrada.

Of course, no one knows him as Tan Sui Tong Candelaria. He chose Tsing Tsong Tsai, his Chinese name, as his screen name.

The world in 1973 had not yet forgotten the death of martial arts star Bruce Lee. The movies then had lead characters like Bruce Li and Bruce Le. Candelaria as Tsing Tsong Tsai paved the way for other Filipino martial artists like Ramon Zamora, Rey Malonzo, Rey Marcos and Trovador Ramos.

But Candelaria, because of his sanshou background, as well as his being a Tondo boy, was the most convincing of the lot.

Sanshou, which means "loose hands" in Fookien, has a non-cinematic origin.

After fighting with the Americans in hand-to-hand combat during the Korean War, the Chinese military decided to come out with a more effective form of martial arts.

They gathered the best masters and developed a style based on simplicity, directness and effectiveness against a taller and stronger opponent. The Chinese military was able to use sanshou against the Russians in their border conflicts in the 1960s.

Also known as "Chinese kickboxing," the sport sanshou is fought on an eight foot by eight foot platform called *lei tai.*

Fighters wear boxing gloves, headgear and body protectors. It is full contact kicking and punching with throws and sweeps allowed. Knees, elbows, head butts, joint manipulation and chokes are not allowed, but fighters can be thrown off the platform.

Candelaria said his injuries came from sanshou, and not from playing tough in the movies. And learning that the movies are as fickle as fame (of 10 actors, nine are in debt, Candelaria loves to say), he decided to put up his business in Baguio in 1981.

Candelaria (center) is in the business of training champions

Toots Soberano

He set up the 456 Restaurant on Session Road, the city's main street. Then he sold his shares and opened "Tondo" restaurant along Abanao Road. It became a city landmark because his friends from the movies frequented the place. He remodeled Tondo in 1994, sawed off his red convertible and put it on the facade of his "50's Diner."

Away from the glare of showbusiness, Candelaria married a Mindoro lass named Lorna and raised his two children, Glenn and Sherlyn, in Baguio.

He is still playing toughies in the movies, the last time in the Rudy Fernandez-Rosanna Roces starrer *"Ginto't Pilak."*

"It is comfortable for me to retire now but I felt I had the mission to promote sanshou in the country," he said.

And he need not look far.

Candelaria said the stocky, hard-muscled build of the Cordillerans is ideal for sanshou.

Since 1997, he has been heading the Baguio Sanshou Federation and has trained young sanshou athletes for international competitions.

The sanshou gym in Baguio is located on the top floor of the Maharlika Building on Session Road. In the morning, it is a meeting place for a born-again Christian group but it turns into a "Shaolin temple" at 5 p.m.

About 40 sweaty men and a few women beat the hell out of the two punching bags and themselves. The roof leaks but this is Candelaria's kingdom and his factory for churning sanshou gold.

All the members of the Philippine team in sanshou came from Candelaria's stable.

Marques Sangiao beat the Vietnamese favorite in the 60-kg division semifinal and easily dispatched Indonesian Teguh Prastowo for the gold. Jerome Calica also beat his Indonesian opponent Arif Harsoyo in the 52-kg category finals.

Rexel Nganhayna bowed to Vietnamese Diep Bao Minh in the 56-kg finals. The other member, Eduard Folayang, lost in the 56-kg quarterfinals but Candelaria said the 17-year-old Folayang was in his first international meet.

Two other Philippine champions, also Candelaria's wards, did not compete in Malaysia because the host country has no athletes competing in their weight category.

"Our house is far from the gym. So when I cannot find money for fare, I just jog my way to the gym. Everything is hard in sanshou but victory is sweeter," said the 19-year-old Sangiao. Both Sangiao and Calica were kickboxers before switching to sanshou.

Candelaria said the peak age for sanshou competition is 23. He said his wards are preparing for the first Olympic gold not so much in the 2004 Athens Games but in the Beijing Olympics in 2008.

"That would be a sweeter deal. To win the sanshou gold and probably the first gold for the Philippines in the country where sanshou started," Candelaria said.

He said he can retire after that.

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Cover Story

by Teddy Montelibano

Is the Justice Secretary's reputation as the Lothario in government bound to affect his performance, as well as the verdict of the Commission on Appointments? The gentleman in question—and some of the ladies he has been linked to—set the record straight

The Women in Nani Perez's Life

PERHAPS NO OTHER MEMBER OF THE MACAPAGAL CABINET TODAY IS AS BELEAGUERED AS THE BEMOUSTACHED SECRETARY OF JUSTICE, HERNANDO "NANI" B. PEREZ. "AND IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF THE *BIGOTE* (MOUSTACHE)," ONE LADY EDITOR REMARKED AIRILY. "*PILYO KASI ANG DATING* (HE LOOKS NAUGHTY)," SAID ANOTHER JOURNALIST WHO RECENTLY HAD A TALK WITH PEREZ.

"But I've always had this," Perez protests, even as he fondles the well-trimmed strip of hair just above his lips. He said he tried to shave it once, only to grow it back when even his closest friends couldn't recognize him without it.

The guy may laugh it off, but it is clear to see that he is not amused by the charges that have been hurled his way. "It's a tough job," he says, "and I am up against very powerful people. No other Justice Secretary is prosecuting the kind of people I am prosecuting."

As Secretary of Justice, Perez is at the forefront of the plunder case filed by his Department against former President Joseph Estrada. Likewise, as head of the National Anti-Crime Commission (NACC), he's playing a lead role in the Macapagal government's declared war against drug traffickers and money launderers.

Barely had he warmed his seat in the Justice Department when charges of corruption were thrown at him. Even his choice of people to work in his office triggered derogatory reports from those assigned to the Justice beat.

The most current—and perhaps most damaging—attacks are those on his alleged womanizing. News reports on Perez and the alleged "women in his life" came out in several dailies early in November. Four women were specifically mentioned: his chief of staff, State Prosecutor Pamela Lazatin Escobar; former Toll Regulatory Board head Chona Dimayuga; Public Interest Law Center (PILC) Managing Counsel Marie Yuvienco, and one Olivia San Jose.

"Dangerous liaisons" is how gossip describes Perez's relationship with (from left) Atty. Chona Dimayuga, Atty. Pam Escobar, Olivia Jose and Marie Yuvienco

"My gosh!" exclaims 60-year-old Olivia Santiago Jose. "I really don't mind those reports romantically linking me with Secretary Perez. But I do mind being tagged as a 62-year-old! And they didn't even get my name right." Jose is the wife of famous sportsman and tennis champ Johnny Jose, who bagged a gold medal in the Asian Games in Jakarta in 1962. She is also the sister of Filipino interior designer Sonia Santiago-Olivares.

The truth is, Jose says, she and her husband are among Secretary and Mrs. Charito Perez's oldest friends. She met Perez 40 years ago, when the latter was merely Nani Perez to his friends and classmates in the Ateneo College of Law, and she was a Commerce major at St. Paul's. "We were just *barkada*," she says. But the friendship has lasted till today.

After college, Nani Perez went on to join politics and become first Secretary of Transportation and Communication, then three-term congressman and now Justice Secretary. Meanwhile, banker's daughter, Oli Santiago flew to New York, trained with Chase Manhattan Bank and later worked with the United Nations Secretariat.

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She met tall and strapping Johnny Jose in New York. They married and lived in the US from 1984 until 1998. "Our families are very close," says Perez. "When my wife used to go to Los Angeles, the Joses would fetch her at the airport; they would do the same thing when I would go there."

When Perez's eldest son and now Congressman Francisco II was at the Ateneo himself, his date at the Junior-Senior Prom was one of Oli and Johnny Jose's daughters. Relates Perez, "My son had no date. I knew that the Joses had several beautiful daughters so I called up Oli and asked her permission for my son to date one of her daughters."

The other funny thing was that the weekend before news reports of Perez's romantic liaisons with several women came out, he and his wife, the former Charito Salvador were enjoying a weekend in Baguio together with the Joses. "In fact," laughs the DOJ Secretary, "the first thing that my wife said when I told her about the news item was, *'O, naku*, what did Oli say?' And I said, *galit*. Because they said she was 62!"

Jose is presently a consultant for administrative and personnel affairs in the Department of Justice (DOJ). She had initially not wanted to be interviewed for this article. "I did not want to dignify rumors linking me with the secretary," she said. "I come from good stock and I'm proud of that. My dad was a very strict man and he always said, all we have is our name. Take care of that, and be sure you can look anyone in the face anytime. That's what I've taught my kids, too."

Marie Yuvienco is the youngest of the women linked to Perez. She comes from a well-off family and is the favorite of her grandfather, Mike Avanceña. Mike's brother is the husband of former President Manuel Quezon's daughter, the formidable Nini Q. Avanceña. With her grandfather, Marie shares a fondness for vanilla ice cream. "That's what he

feeds me when I'm sick; together, we'd each demolish half a gallon." It was also Marie's grandfather who personally handed over the letter he wrote in reaction to the editor of one of the local dailies, which carried the report linking her name to the DOJ Secretary.

In her early 30s, Yuvienco may be young but as managing counsel of PILC, she courts danger daily as head of the law firm which handles mostly human rights or public interest cases. She took over from human rights lawyer Romy Capulong when the latter was accepted as Ad Litem Judge for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, a prestigious position that brought honor to the Philippines.

She was in her fourth year at the Ateneo College of Law (Batch '93) when she heard Capulong speak in a convocation on human rights lawyering, particularly on the Marcos human rights case then pending in Hawaii. She was captivated, even as Capulong was impressed by her many questions on the subject. As it turned out, Yuvienco had already been exposed to human rights groups, including doing work with such people as Sr. Mariani Dimaranan and groups like Task Force Detainees Philippines, who were documenting cases of human rights violations allegedly involving the Marcoses.

Even before she graduated from the Ateneo Law School, Yuvienco was invited by Capulong to join PILC. Among the notable cases she handled after she joined the firm was that of *Lola* Rosa Henson, the first Filipino comfort woman to go public in her quest for an apology and compensation from the Japanese government. She also personally assisted, albeit in vain, Flor Contemplacion, the Filipina domestic worker who many believe was unjustly tried and executed by the Singaporean government for the death of her ward. "But my favorite case," the fair and tall Yuvienco says, "was that which involved this farming community in Hacienda Looc, Batangas, which is being developed into an upscale resort by Fil-Estate." Apparently, government had already awarded farmers occupying the area with Certificates of Land Ownership Award (CLOA), but "by some legal wizardry," these certificates were canceled, paving the way for Fil-Estate to start developing the land. The farmers refused to vacate the area, prompting security guards hired by the realty development firm to fire shots at them.

"I feel particularly for this case because seven farmers were killed. Even us lawyers have been subjected to harassment, but these haven't prevented us from going back to the area. The farmers involved are no ordinary farmers; they are fourth generation farmers whose forefathers have tilled the land since the time of Andres Bonifacio."

Feisty lady, this woman, but Yuvienco still looks pained when asked about the rumors linking her to the DOJ Secretary. She met Perez in the impeachment trial of former President Estrada. PILC, on behalf of the so-called civil society groups, had initiated the legal steps for the impeachment of Mr. Estrada and was among the groups who assisted the prosecutors in the trial.

Other legal entities were invited to send volunteers to assist the prosecution. Perez, along with lawyers from a non-government organization he formed which provided free legal services to battered women and abused children, was recruited to be the lead private prosecutor for Group 3. This was the group which included PILC, and which focused on the issue of betrayal of public trust, specifically where it concerned the BW Trading stocks scandal.

Bonds among the private prosecutors during the Estrada impeachment trial became tight, and still are. Perez assumed the DOJ leadership and, impressed by her capabilities, recruited Yuvienco as special counsel for the plunder case as well as in efforts to recover the Marcos loot. President Macapagal has also requested for her to be assigned as counsel for Col. Victor Corpus, head of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

She was with Perez and other DOJ officials, including Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño, in one of the boutique hotels in Ortigas Center when their picture was said to have been taken by a mysterious photographer. "Does that mean we're being stalked?" Perez asked.

"If we were photographed, I have yet to see those pictures," Yuvienco says. "But I remember the only time we were all together was when we had a meeting in one of these hotels in Ortigas Center. Even Chief Prosecutor Zuño was laughing, saying, 'Hey, I'm a witness!' And, well, if I'm going to do something crazy, would I allow myself to be seen walking in the lobby of a hotel?"

What does she feel about these insinuations of a liaison with Perez? Yuvienco sighs heavily. "My association with Secretary Perez is purely professional. Now, if my dedication to my work will be twisted and misconstrued, what is going to happen to innocent people who really want to help this country? I have been single-minded about my objectives and well, there really is nothing I can do if people are malicious. What else do you want me to say?"

Perez himself is flabbergasted about his supposed dalliances with Yuvienco. "She's a dedicated lawyer working mostly for cases that are pro bono; she also helped my son when he ran for Congress. She was helping him with the canvass of votes in Batangas. She has also been in conference with my youngest son, a lawyer (Hernando Jr.), so perhaps, she's also having an affair with him?"

Two other women with whom the DOJ Secretary was linked are his chief of staff, Pam Escobar, and lawyer Chona Dimayuga. Both were his students in Ateneo Law School for two years, 1982-1984. Pam is the niece of former Pampanga Congressman (now Angeles City Mayor) Carmelo Lazatin and the sister of ACCRA lawyer Boy Lazatin. She, along with Dimayuga, had applied and were taken in by Perez as members of his staff when he was appointed by then President Cory Aquino as Secretary of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications in 1986.

Dimayuga's family is likewise close to Perez's. Her grandfather had been one of the DOJ Secretary's best friends when he was still alive and active in politics in Batangas.

Both women helped Perez in his campaign when he ran for Congress in the 1987 elections. After the elections, Dimayuga stayed with DOTC to become head of the Toll Regulatory Board (an agency which was eventually attached to the Department of Public Works and Highways). Later, she got involved with the non-government organization, Katarungan para sa mga Kababaihan at Kabataan, organized by Perez to provide legal services for cases handled by the Department of Social Welfare and Development involving women and children. This was where she was when she was asked to assist the prosecution team during the Estrada impeachment trial.

Escobar worked with the family business in Pampanga and when Pinatubo erupted in 1991, left the province to work in the DOJ. She's been with the Department since then. She met her husband, Joaquin Escobar, who is also a state prosecutor, and rose up the ranks to become senior state prosecutor. That was where she was when Perez assumed the position of DOJ Secretary and asked her to be his chief of staff.

"I did not like to work as his chief of staff," Escobar said, "because I knew his work habits, and he's a taskmaster and a perfectionist. I knew my simple, predictable life would be altered once I accepted the offer." And indeed it has been, for her position has given her some notoriety. Even Perez said he couldn't find Pam Escobar for a short while after she had been asked to head his office. "She didn't come to work for several days. In the meantime, the paperwork in my office was piling up. Finally, after a week, she came to work."

Even after the offer to be the DOJ Secretary's chief of staff was conveyed to her, Escobar claims she was not too keen to accept. "I guess that was why Secretary Perez insisted that I be the one to handle his office, because there were so many volunteers and here I was, so lukewarm about the matter. Even when the offer had been made, I told them that I had to do other things first. The first week that Secretary Perez came to DOJ, I was preoccupied with matters concerning my kids in school; I just dragged my feet. After a week had passed, I knew that he really needed help with the paper work. So I reported for work in his office."

Chona Dimayuga, the steadfast Perez loyalist that she is, accompanied

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First Person

by Leah Adormeo de Velez

Some of Nanay Taba's poultices may or may not have scientific merit. Yet I believe their efficacy was not the only thing that saw me through my childhood. More than anything, it was love

Poultice

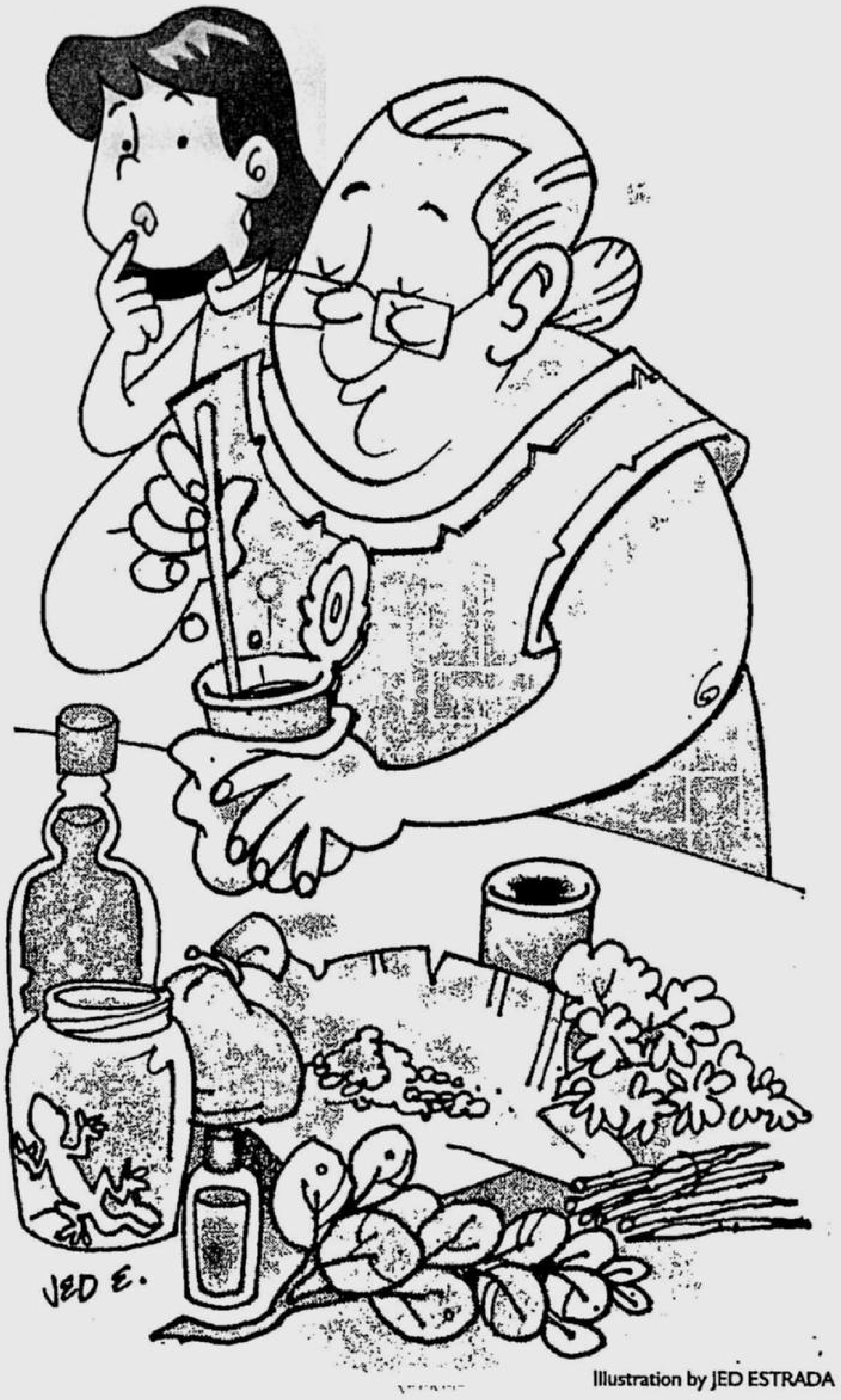

Illustration by JED ESTRADA

I GREW UP IN THE INDULGENT HANDS OF MY MATERNAL GRANDMOTHER, WHOM I CALL *NANAY* TABA FOR STOUTLY GOOD REASON. SHE FILLED IN THE GAP LEFT BY MY MOTHER, WHO AFTER FOUR MONTHS OF BREASTFEEDING, WAS WHISKED AWAY TO FINISH COLLEGE ELSEWHERE. WIDOWED AND WITH A BAWLER OF A BABY IN HER CARE, SHE WAS FORCED TO DEPEND ON POULTICES OF HER OWN INVENTION DURING ENDLESS BOUTS WITH FEVER, COLDS, DIARRHEA, AND A WHOLE CABOODLE OF AILMENTS BABIES LOVE TO RENDEZVOUS WITH IN INFANCY. ADD ON THE FACT THAT SHE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH CHOICE BECAUSE THE NEAREST HEALTH CENTER IN OUR TINY VILLAGE WAS A GOOD TWO HOURS' WALK. SO IT CAME TO PASS THAT I GREW UP HEALTHY AND STRONG OWING NOTHING TO ANTIBIOTICS, VITAMINS AND PAIN KILLERS, BUT DEEPLY INDEBTED TO MY GRANDMOTHER'S WONDERFUL POULTICES.

The old woman never had any education, formal or otherwise, because during her time, parents believed that women were only good for marriage and nothing else. What she lacked in education, however, she made up for with innovation and a little imagination. Some herbal knowledge was probably passed down to her, and some she experimented with herself.

For minor wounds, cuts and abrasions, for example, she had a poultice she called *"siling mainit"* for obvious reasons. It was a combination of ground red *siling labuyo* mixed with coconut oil and heated before application with a rooster feather as applicator, and never without it. She kept this in an empty sardine can so that heating the substance over fire was easy. I always succumbed to this spicy treatment whenever I came home with cuts and bruises all over after a day's romp in the open fields or frolics with the vicious mother cat that was so protective of her newborn kittens. I never had any cut nor wound that eluded the hot feather, and I'm glad I didn't, for that poultice surely effaced what could have been unsightly childhood marks on my legs.

Another favorite was her remedy for cough and colds. With the slightest excuse of a sniffle, *Nanay* Taba would grill a harvest of oregano leaves over hot coals, squeeze out the dark juice from the limp leaves and serve it to me, ashes and all. I downed that bitter liquid twice a day with no vacillation, knowing that it would take away the cold like it always did. If the oregano therapy did not work with the cough, she would abandon her oregano garden, which was almost bald by that time, and set out to sea with me in a small boat. In the part of the swamp where the water was cleanest, she hoped, she would spoon some seawater, add a dash of lemon and give it to me like a cough syrup. I couldn't tell until now whether it was the fresh air or the seawater that melted the phlegm and silenced my lungs. But what I do know was I never had to see a doctor nor down any antibiotics to remedy my cough during my entire childhood with *Nanay* Taba.

Grilled lizard, on the other hand, is her prescription for my asthmatic little brother. I remember very well how she trapped the helpless reptilian, wrap it in banana leaves and barbecued it until almost ashen. She told the innocent tyke that the ashen lump on his plate was fish, and the naïve tot gulped it down unceremoniously with rice. I myself was not spared because I had skin asthma and grandmother thought her barbecued lizard was a two-in-one solution. True enough, my brother outgrew his asthma as I did my skin allergies.

My little brother's tribulation did not end with the lizard. Being sickly and weak, *Nanay* Taba made him drink his own urine for a certain period of time. The urine therapy was interrupted only when the hapless child could already talk and could have spilled the beans to our parents, who didn't have the slightest impression that milk was not the only thing that passed through their son's feeding bottle. It was only recently that I realized that the repulsive urine therapy actually worked for some people and that a considerable number actually swear by its efficacy in promoting good health.

My *Nanay* Taba had a gamut of other remedies for different ailments that rivaled that of our village's local medico. Expelling gas pains would require three to four *tuba* leaves warmed over a fire and placed on the belly for a few good minutes. For diarrhea, a bunch of young guava leaves were munched by the afflicted till the bitter juice was gone. Dry, brittle hair would call for once-a-week shampoo of coconut milk, while swollen insect bites are remedied by saliva. When sleep eludes me, she would pop soft rice balls in my mouth for me to suck on—which turned out to be the reason why I had to wear braces for four years and retainers much longer.

Some of *Nanay* Taba's poultices may or may not have scientific merit. Yet I believe their efficacy was not the only thing that saw me through my childhood. More than anything, it was love.

Nanay Taba lived until age 88, her body crumpled by osteoporosis, her mind clouded by old age. In her death in 1997, I inherited a rich recollection of her curative recipes, though only the oregano poultice is allowed of me by my husband to administer to our son. Her death also left me with pain so deep I have not stopped grieving. If only *Nanay* Taba also left a poultice for grief.

COVER from page 11

Runaway rumors have linked Secretary Perez with Yuvienco (in black, behind)

the newly appointed DOJ Secretary to the department to put some sense of order in the chaos, the result of an administration hastily leaving in midstream. But she knew it was only temporary work. With Escobar convinced to be Perez's chief of staff, Dimayuga went on to assume her assignment as special counsel for the retrieval of the Marcos loot.

In the meantime, Escobar found herself headed for a confrontation with other DOJ employees. "It's the usual *inggitan* (envy). I was just one of the portals in the DOJ, and suddenly I was placed in a position perceived to be powerful. I have also become a threat." When asked to elaborate, Escobar declined further comment, except to say that she is a "very religious person and I guess God is just testing my faith."

It might be of some comfort for all these women to know that they are in august company.

No less than the Chief of State of the Republic herself has been similarly linked to the bemoustached alleged lothario in government. Perez could only laugh when asked if there was any truth to the rumor that his prowess with women had even included the highest official of the land. He recounted that he convinced then Trade and Industry Undersecretary Gloria Arroyo to join the LDP as a senatorial bet in the 1992 national elections. She won that race and in late 1996, when she and Perez were kicked out of the party by then LDP President Edgardo J. Angara, he convinced Lakas presidential nominee Jose de Venecia to get Macapagal as his vice presidential mate in the 1998 national elections. Ms. Macapagal won and the rest is history.

Perez ran — and lost — in the senatorial elections in 1998. It was during the 1998 campaign that the rumors linking him and Ms. Macapagal first began to pop up. He is convinced this was the result of attempts to launch a black propaganda campaign against her.

"They could not pin anything on her, so they used the fact that I had rooted for her, *at baka sakali*. When that first came out, I shied away from her. I wouldn't even sit beside her. I would sit opposite her. Until one day, Mike Arroyo came to me and asked, why are you acting like this? What's wrong with you? I told him about the white paper linking me to his wife. He then said, 'Why do you mind that? I am also included in that paper! And *alam ko* it's not true!' Finally Mrs. Arroyo herself came up to me and said, '*O, ikaw ang lalake* (you're the man), why are you the one shying away from me?'"

As Dimayuga blurts out, "So okay, Pam (Escobar) and I are both single mothers. But you can be very, very sure the father is not Secretary Perez!"

Whether or not such statements by these ladies will quell rumors about Perez's womanizing remains to be seen.

Is he worried at all that this kind of talk will bear negatively on his confirmation as DOJ Secretary? If the query elicited any sign of irritation, it was well masked. "Look," Perez says. "I'm not only DOJ Secretary, I am also the chairman of the National Anti-Crime Commission, and the number of people we have run after or are about to run after has put me on their death lists. Has that deterred me from doing my work? Not at all. And about my confirmation, if that's the only thing I worry about, I will no longer have any time to do my work. If I do my job right, I think the members of the Commission on Appointments will confirm me. But right now, my only concern is that I have a job to do and I'm just doing my best to get it done."

Maybe he really should get rid of the moustache.

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When you reach forty, you would have eaten 17.7 tons of food. That's about 14.6 truckloads of **meats**, fats, **steaks** and **ice cream** you've eaten. Health problems develop if you do not remove these unwanted foods from your body regularly. When **constipated**, more of these fats enter your blood stream to clog it and cause heart problems, or form toxins.

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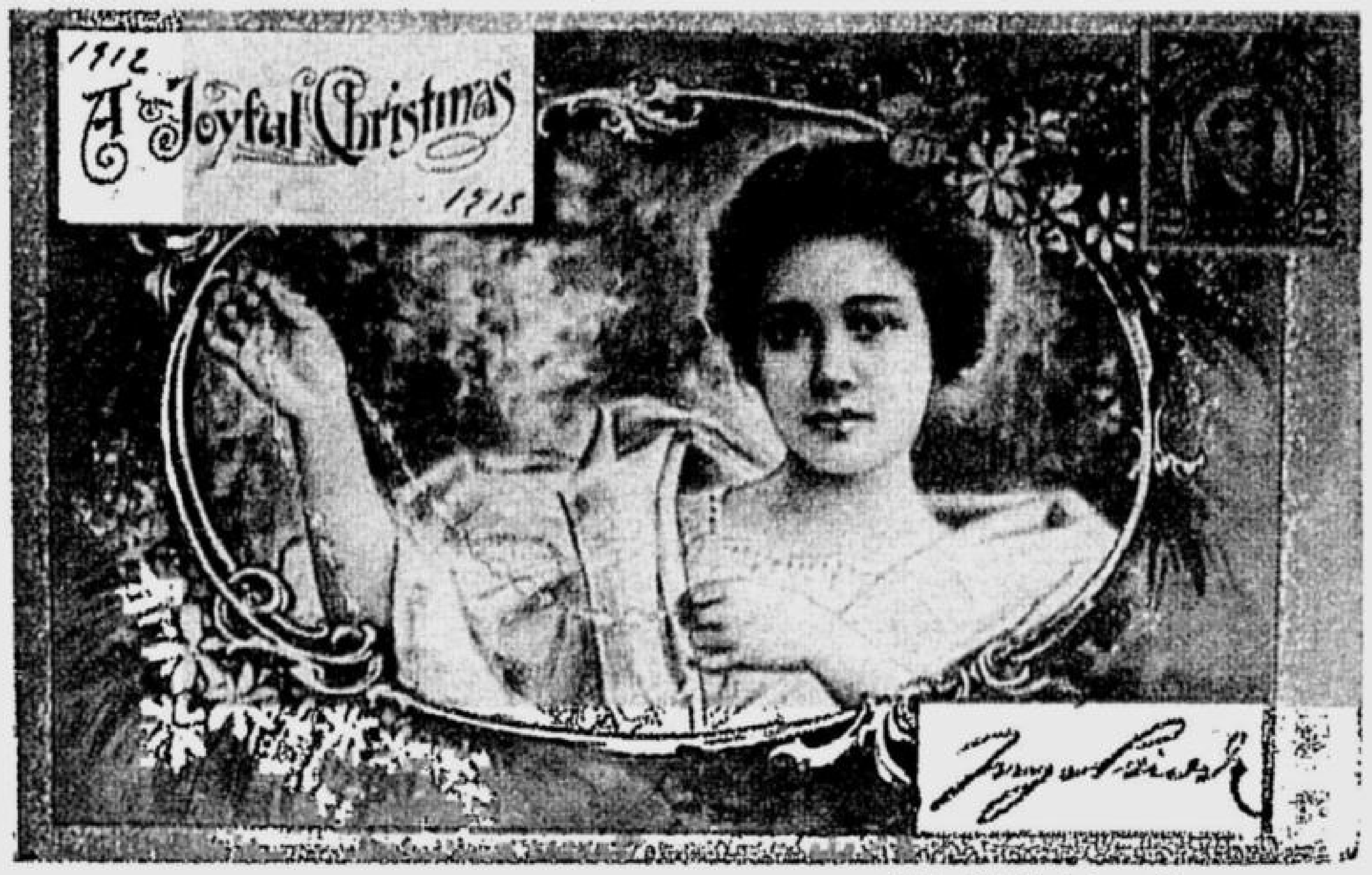
End Page

by Jonathan Best

A Filipino Christmas

A good way to avoid the commercial hype this year, save money and do something positive for the country is to make a concerted effort to buy the best quality Filipino products on the market



"A Joyful Christmas" postcard by Jorge Pineda, 1913, John Silva Collection.

THIS YEAR, CHRISTMAS IN MANILA PROMISES TO BE EVEN QUIETER. LAST YEAR, THE ESTRADA IMPEACHMENT TRIAL, POLITICAL INSTABILITY AND ECONOMIC MALAISE DISTRACTED PEOPLE FROM SHOPPING AND MERRY MAKING. THIS YEAR A WORLDWIDE ECONOMIC RECESSION LOOMS IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE WORLD TRADE CENTER ATTACK IN NEW YORK. THE WAR AGAINST THE TALIBAN TERRORISTS OF AFGHANISTAN HAS DAMPENED YULETIDE SPIRITS WORLDWIDE AS WELL. LOCALLY, KIDNAPPINGS IN MANILA AND BANDITRY IN THE SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES WEIGH HEAVILY ON PEOPLE'S MINDS. THERE IS LESS MONEY TO SPEND AND TOURISTS DOLLARS HAVE BEEN SCARED AWAY BY HYSTERICAL TRAVEL ADVISORIES FROM THE AMERICAN STATE DEPARTMENT AND JAPANESE FOREIGN OFFICE.

Precisely because the financial outlook is uncertain and people are concerned about their personal safety this year that it may be an excellent time to rethink Christmas. It is definitely a good time to give gifts with genuine value and scale back on excessive consumption. The spiritual message of peace and rebirth, which once was the religious theme of Christmas has all but been forgotten amid the greedy cacophony of advertisements and the endless repetition of Christmas carols over the radio and in malls.

Much of the secular symbolism of Christmas is foreign to Philippine climate and has taken on a strange nostalgic life of its own. Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer, Santa Claus, Frosty the Snow Man, singing chipmunks, Christmas trees, holly wreaths, candy canes and fruitcakes are out of place in the tropics. They are fun for kids and link the Philippines to the global secular holiday, which Christmas has become, but they are increasingly devoid of their original meaning.

A good way to avoid the commercial hype this year, save money and do something positive for the country is to make a concerted effort to buy the best quality Filipino products on the market. There is nothing wrong with a bit of enlightened nationalism. The United States and many other nations have launched similar campaigns during economic hard times. It might not be a bad idea for people to question the need for so much tacky, foreign made and plastic merchandise, which is foisted on the Philippines in the name of globalization and international style.

The streets of Manila certainly do not need any more expensive cars or oversized "recreational vehicles" bloated with silly macho gadgets and adding to the traffic jams. Forget about buying an imported car this year. Jet skis are another imported headache the country can do without. They needlessly kill thousands of fish and pollute the environment with their infernal racket. The family can survive another year without the latest wide-screen Japanese television or karaoke machine. Forget the Rolex watches, diamond jewelry, expensive perfume, imported brandy, wine and chocolates. Why spend your hard-earned pesos on ephemeral flimflam, which will only enrich people thousands of miles away?

So what should one buy and still have lots of Christmas fun and not alienate your family and friends? This is not the year to tell the spouse and kids that you gave all the Christmas money to the Little Sisters of Charity to feed the poor. You should give generously to food and family welfare programs if you can, but merchants need your money too.

Be imaginative. If you've got tons of money, and some people still do, give your wife or kids the dream house they have always wanted. You would employ dozens of out-of-work people and consume quantities of local products. Buying a major painting or sculpture by a national artist or an up-and-coming one would help the struggling Filipino art market and show the world how refined your family is. Buying fine Philippine antiques, furniture, ethnographic art and religious icons are good investments. You would also be keeping the national patrimony from being exported abroad and lost forever to future generations of Filipinos.

For those who don't have tons of money there are many excellent locally published books on the market this year, which promote Filipino culture and should be part of every household. Books make excellent presents; many are beautifully designed and they are easy to wrap. Taking the whole family or a big group of your friends to the ballet or a concert is also a great Christmas gift. Locally tailored and embroidered *barongs* and evening wear make fine gifts and employ local workers and designers. There are lots of arts and crafts on the market from handmade ceramics to beautiful textiles and hand weaving in any number of materials. There is no excuse not to buy gorgeous local products.

To really get into the holiday spirit and celebrate Philippine culture at its best, give a gift of food. There is no end to the number of local delicacies from crispy *lechon* and roast duck to mango tarts and *puto bumbong* which enhance the Christmas spirit and are universally loved. Food may not be so great for the waistline but in this year of universal belt tightening it should be more than welcome. When giving to those in need, a large sack of rice and supply of local products is much more beneficial than a basket of imports or cash, which might end up who knows where.

Every year Christmas is a challenge and this year it is even more so. Money is very tight and people have many serious concerns about what the future will bring. Why not make a determined effort to bypass the glitz and the glitter and spend what money you have on products which will help the national economy and lift people's spirits at the same time? Whether you have money or not, this year is a very good year to spend as much time as you can with your friends and family, your husband or wife, your lover or partner. Share with them the simplest and most welcome local gift of all, your love and affection.

Comments welcome at endpage2000@hotmail.com.

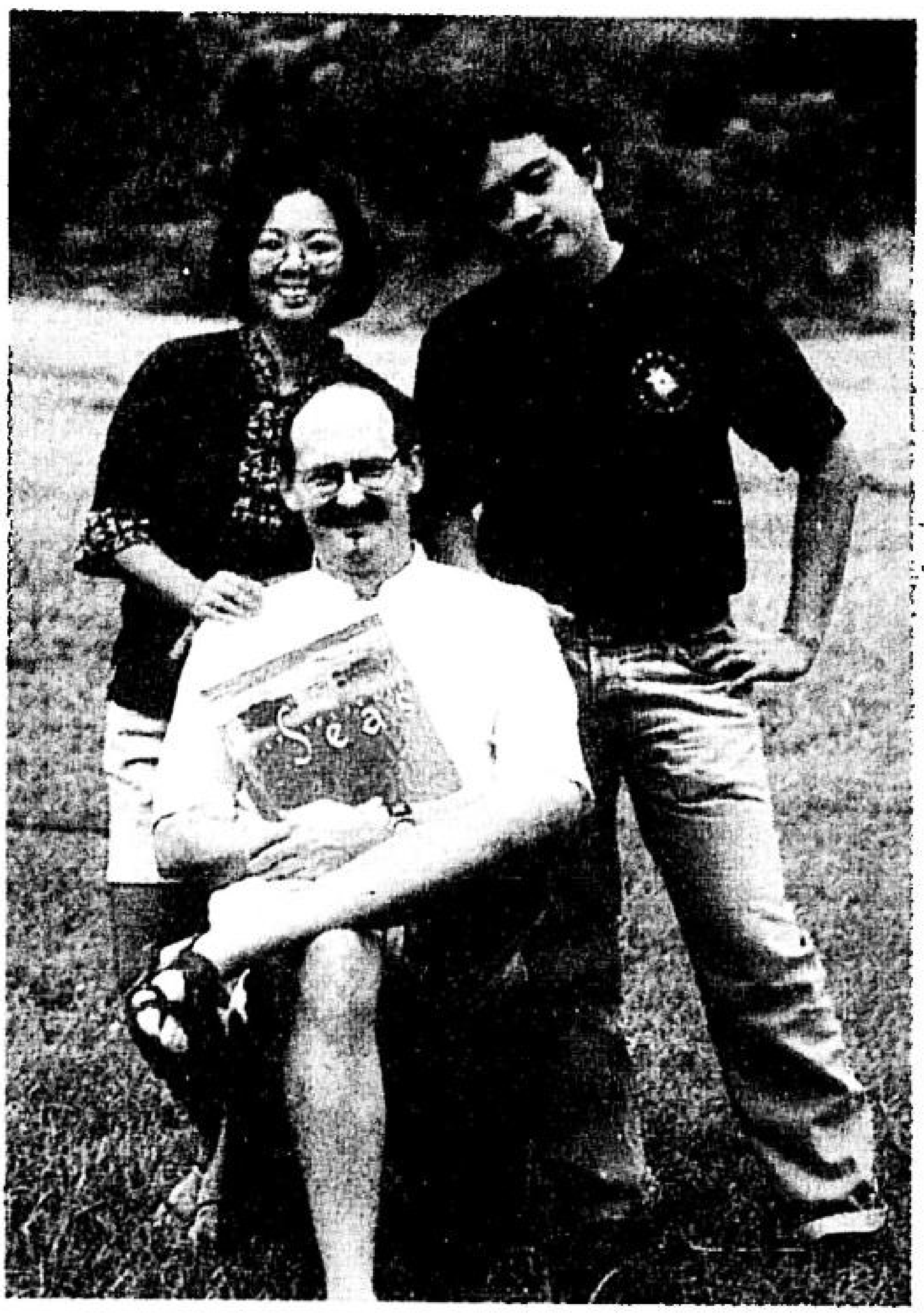
Noteworthy

An Ocean of Diversity

An award-winning nature photographer's first book zooms in on a rich and endangered environment

TAKE one award-winning nature photographer who has been heeding "the call of the sea" since 1981, and has had his work published in some of Europe's most prestigious magazines. Unleash him in one of the most diverse and valuable habitats on earth, the Sulu-Sulawesi Sea, an ecoregion that straddles the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia and is a priority conservation area of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

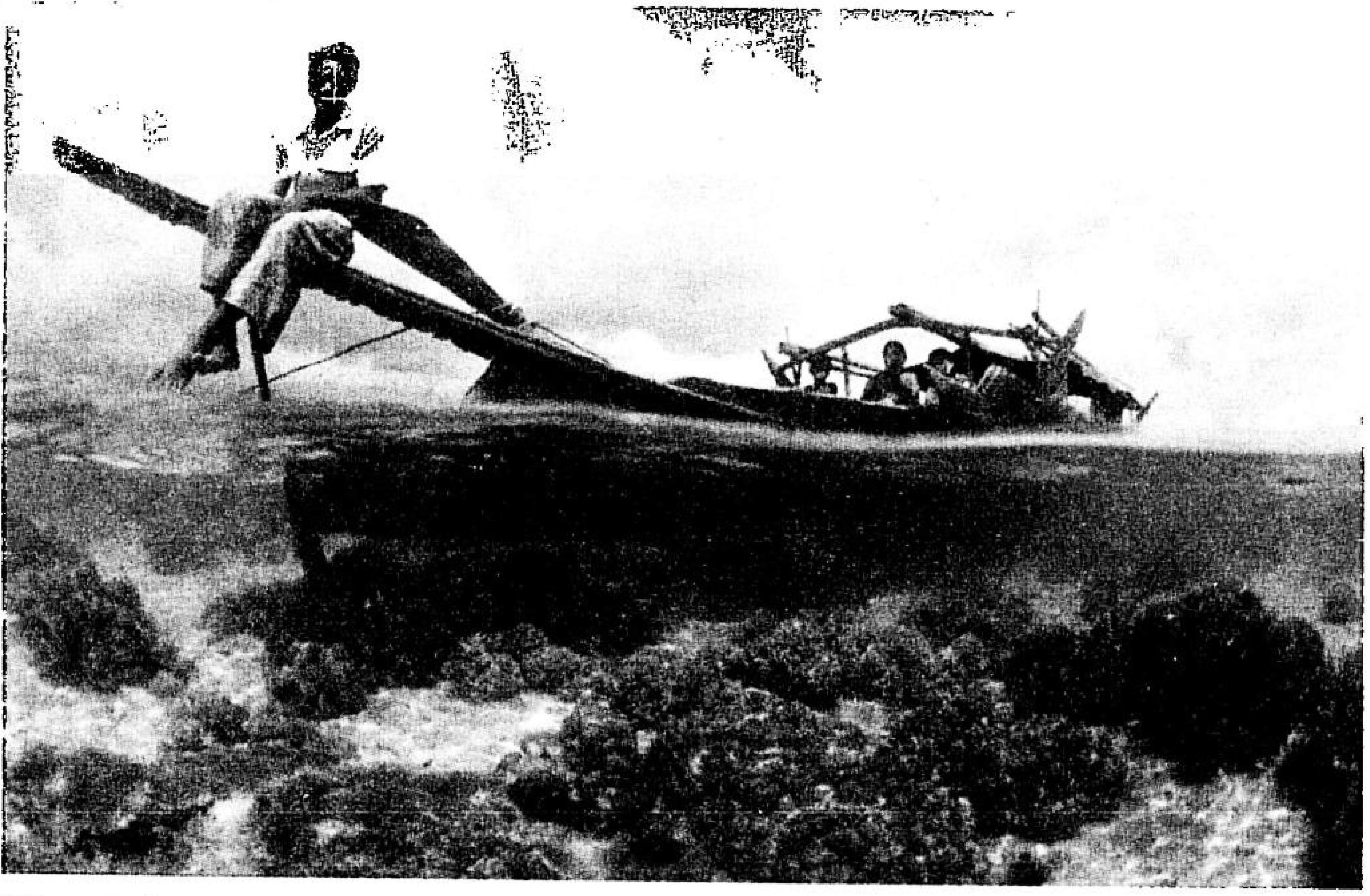
The results have been documented in the recently launched book, "The Sulu-Sulawesi Seas," published by Bookmark and WWF-Philippines and featuring the photographs of Jürgen Freund. Freund created this, his first book, with the help of his wife, video and print producer Stella Chiu, and art director Felix Mago Miguel.


Jürgen Freund with wife Stella Chiu and art director Felix Mago Miguel

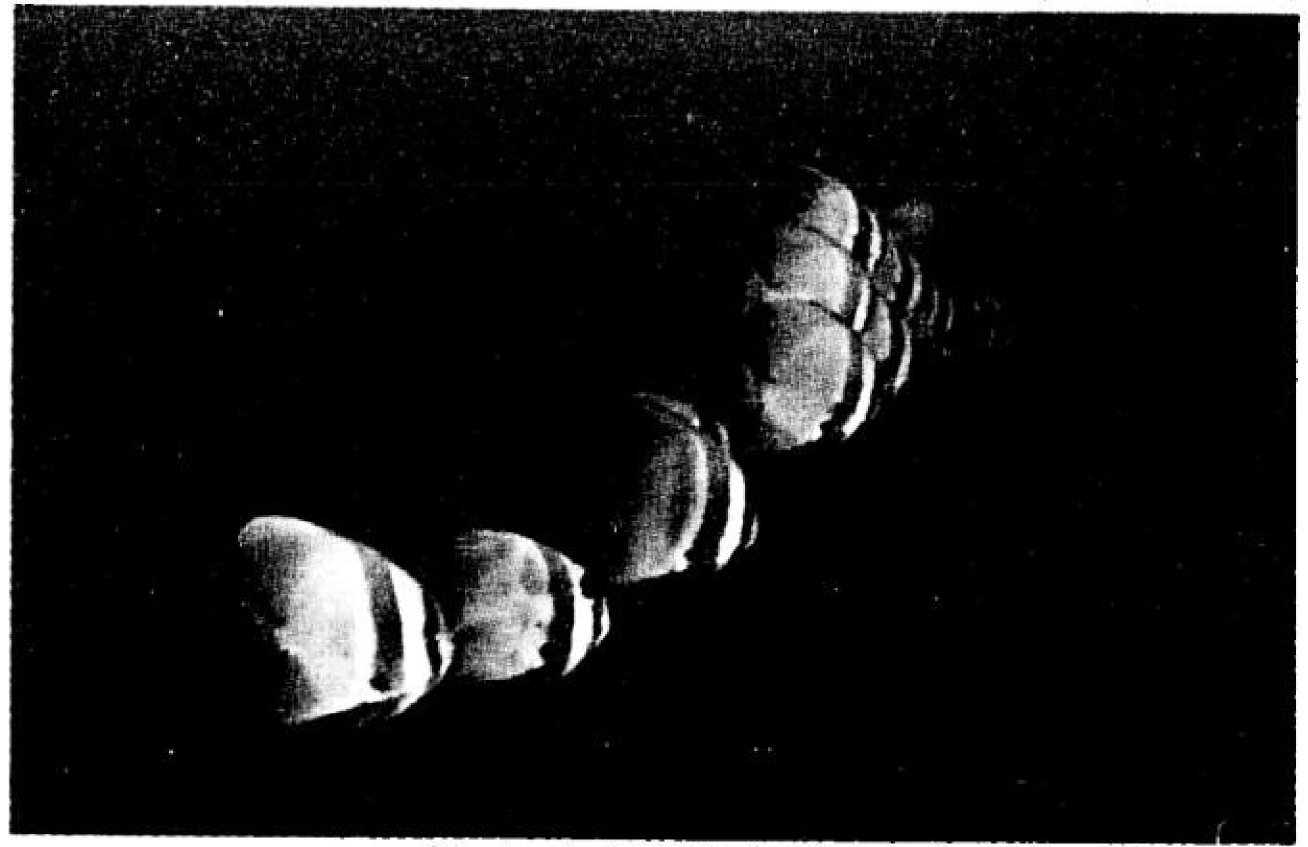
"We had to work very hard to get this book done on time and done with all the right intentions," Chiu says. "I told everyone involved in this project that we didn't just want a 'pretty' book." Although the book also contains essays by experts from the different countries, , it's the visuals that truly inspire. "Seeing Yogi, feeling his passion, the only way for me to design this book was to let the readers be part of his journeys," says Miguel.

Indeed, the dramatic images of everything from a gory whale shark hunt (an underwater photo which won Freund a World Press Photo Award in 1999) to seafaring Badjao capture the many faces of this unique environment. "I wanted to show all," Freund says. "I wanted to show the whole region, how beautiful it was – and how much in danger." The book is available at all Bookmark and Filipino Bookstore outlets.

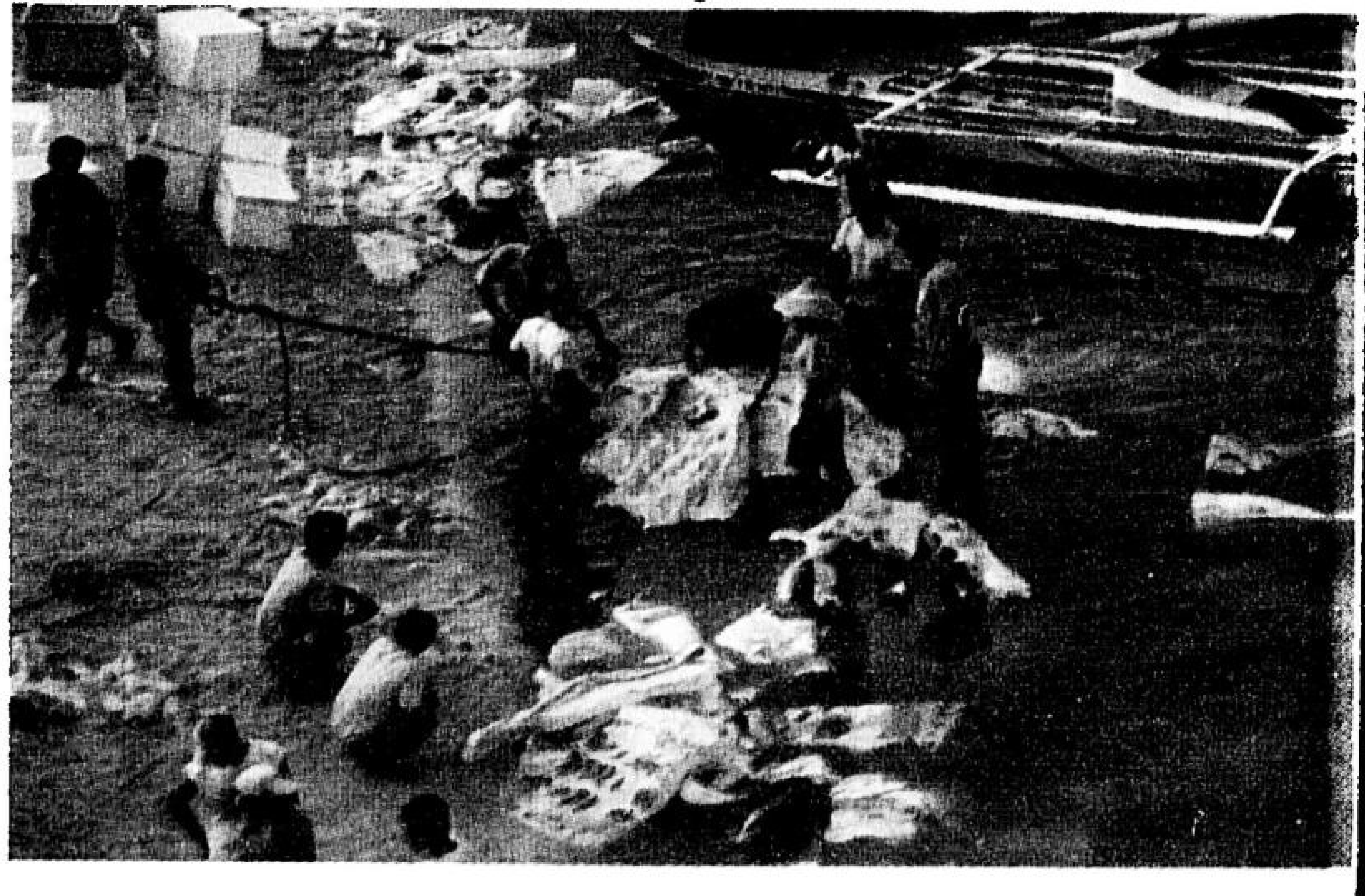
A unique look at the Badjao



Bat fish in formation



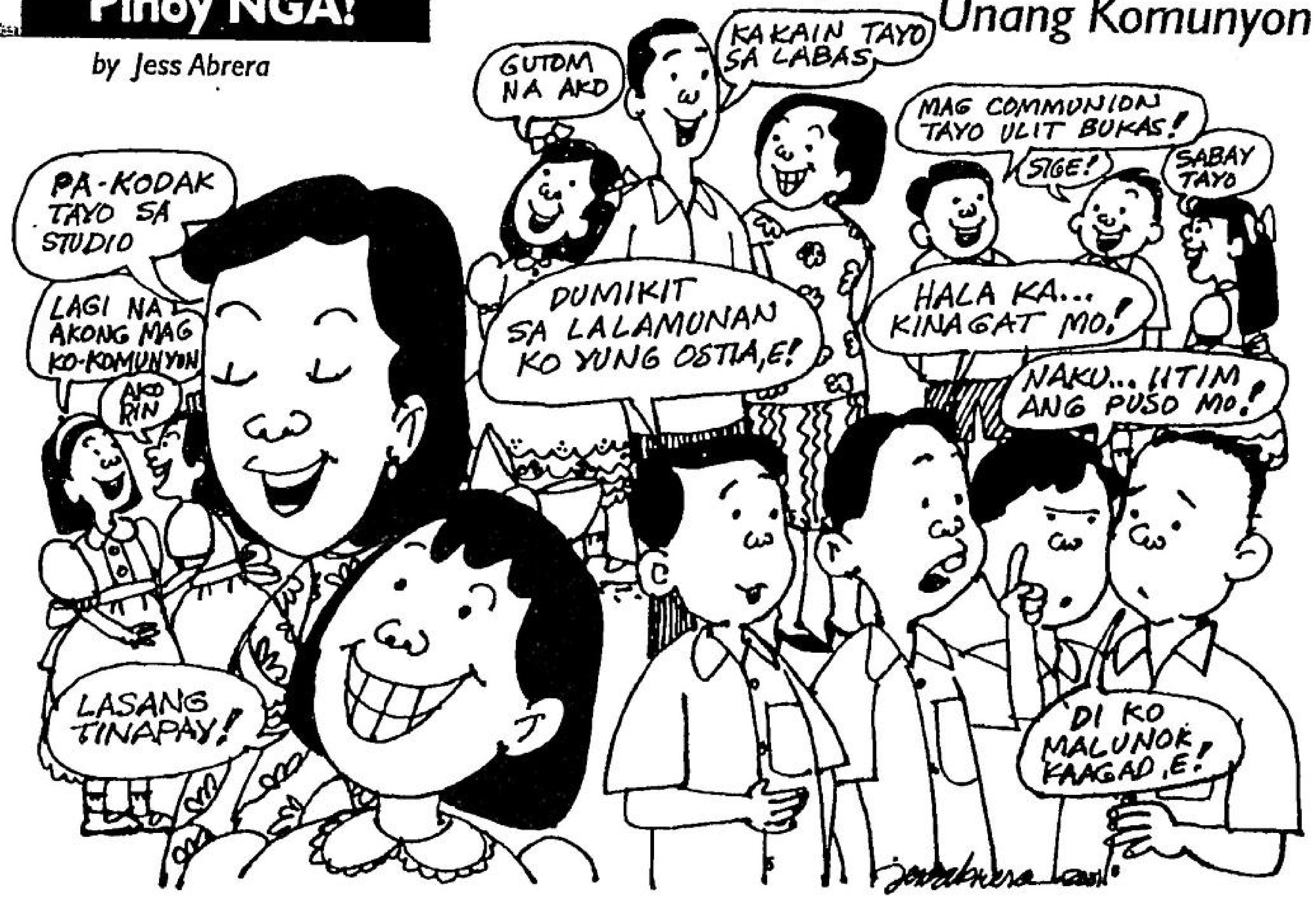
Bloody whale shark slaughter in Pamilacan Island, Bohol



Pinoy NGA!

by Jess Abrera

Unang Komunyon


PA-KODAK TAYO SA STUDIO
LAGI NA AKONG MAG KO-KOMUNYON
AKO RIN
LASANG TINAPAY!
GUTOM NA AKO
KAKAIN TAYO SA LABAS
DUMIKIT SA LALAMUNAN KO YUNG OSTIA, E!
MAG COMMUNION TAYO ULIT BUKAS!
SIGE!
SABAY TAYO
HALA KA... KINAGAT MO!
NAKU... ITIM ANG PUSO MO!
DI KO MALUNOK KAAGAD, E!
jessabrera

This Week

Art

The September 11 disaster and its aftermath are the timely subject of **Didit Robillo van der Linden's** solo exhibit at Finale Art Gallery, SM Megamall A until today.

The Art of Dyeing, paintings by Dante Perez until Dec. 14 at the Blind Tiger Bar and Gallery, 13 Visayas Ave., QC.

Repast, a solo exhibit by Phyllis Zaballero at Galleria Duemila, The Artwalk, SM Megamall A until Dec. 20.

"No Turning Back" unspools at the 3rd Cinemanila International Film Festival at the Glorietta and Greenbelt Cinemas

Limbag, an exhibit of old prints from the collection of former GSIS President and General Manager Federico Pascual until Dec. 29 at the GSIS Museum, GSIS Building, Financial Center, Pasay City.

A Centennial of Wood and Form, an exhibit featuring sculptures by Jerusalino V. Araos, ongoing at the National Museum, Padre Burgos Street, Manila. For details, call 527-1215 or 926-7478.

Kaleidoscope, Valeria Cavestany's exhibit of paintings, sculptures and installations, until Dec. 15 at Finale Art Gallery, Level 4, SM Megamall A

Music

The Amnesty International Pilipinas, Amnesty International UP Diliman Group and the UP Scintilla Juris Fraternity will stage a human rights rock concert, **d' Scream Nation: Stop Discrimination Now,** in lieu of the worldwide anti-torture campaign of AI. The event is slated on Dec. 11, 7 p.m. at UP Diliman Bahay ng Alumni. Fifteen bands will heat up the house with the performances of Chico Science, Bad Burn, Ciudad, Itchyworms, Noel Cabangon, Brown Beat All-Stars, Kamikaze, Pin-up Girls, Loads of Motherhood, Dicta License, Agaw Agimat, Swamp Fluid, Choco Beef, Matilda and Tame d' Tikbalang. Highlighting the concert is the annual candle lighting ceremony in commemoration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. For tickets, call Nancy Calimlim (0919-8149031) or Vallan Velasco (0919-82246720).

Children, Peace & Hope, a Christmas concert dedicated to children by the ABS-CBN Foundation, will be held at the Meralco Theater tonight at 7. The musical special features maestro Ryan Cayabyab conducting a 40-piece orchestra to accompany an all-star cast of ABS-CBN talents and the country's top performers. A dinner featuring the Spirit of '67 will follow after the concert at the Meralco Lobby. Proceeds of the concert will go to Bantay Bata 163. Tickets are available for P1,000, P2,000 and P3,000 inclusive of the dinner-dance. For inquiries, call 411-0856, 415-6625/26, 415-2272 local 3750 or 3762.

The Season's Best, a benefit dinner show to raise funds for the scholarship program of the Aurelio Periquet Jr. Foundation which will finance the college education of outstanding and deserving business students, tonight at the Fiesta Pavilion of the Manila Hotel. It will topbill Lani Misalucha, Verni Varga, Nolyn Cabahug, Robert Seña, Carol Banawa, Philippine Madrigal Singers and Playshop Kids with Gerard Salonga as musical director. For tickets, call 894-4774 and 810-9652.

For this week's bands and schedules call:

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

Onstage

Dramatis Personae in cooperation with the Royal Norwegian Embassy present Henrik Ibsen's poetic fantasy on selfhood and the power of love, **Peer Gynt,** on Dec. 16, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Pius XII Theater, Pius XII Catholic Center, UN Avenue, Manila. For details, call 412-0617.

The opera **Carmen** will have its final performance today at 2:30 p.m. at the CCP Tanghalang Aurelio V. Tolentino.

Cinema

Cinemanila International Film Festival 2001 showcases 75 acclaimed films, including shorts and documentaries from all over the world until Dec. 16 at the Glorietta and Greenbelt Cinemas. Aside from the screenings, Cinemanila will also hold a series of seminars and symposia covering a wide range of subjects on filmmaking to be conducted by a team of local and international film experts.

Food

Tequila Joe's Pre-Christmas Fete. For every entrée you buy from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., you get any side item for free. An order of either pizza or pasta from 2 to 5 p.m., entitles diners to a free heaping Monte Nachos plate. As for bigtime swiggers, Jell-O shots are for buy-two-get-one from 9 p.m. to 12 midnight. Promo is until Dec. 15 at Tequila Joe's in El Pueblo, Ortigas Center, Glorietta 4 and Alabang Town Center.

Take an unlimited fill of Steamed Shark's Fin Dumpling, Deep Fried Shrimp with Century Egg Roll, Steamed Pork Asado Siopao, Almond Milk Dumpling Soup and other **dim sum specialties** at Westin Philippine Plaza's China Sea restaurant every Saturday and Sunday lunch. For details, call 551-5555 ext. 1528.

Enjoy a magical Christmas at the **Holiday Inn Manila** with carefully prepared menus and indulging goodies like *puto bumbong* and *bibingka*, a selection of fancy-shaped chocolates and cookies, Christmas Eve special buffet, and a five-course New Year's Eve special set menu. Take advantage of the hotel's *Balik* Manila *sa Pasko* package where you get the most reasonable room rate to give you more of all the good things for less. For details, call 526-1212.

Atbp

The Season's Best, a Christmas bazaar to be held until today at the G/F and 9/F of the Urban Bank Plaza, Pasong Tamo, Makati City. On sale will be a wealth of imported and local gift items, novel ideas, interesting craft, foodstuff, furniture and furnishings, jewelry, clothes, shoes, fashion accessories and curio. For inquiries, call 894-4774.

The Philippine Nuclear Research Institute invites the public to the **open house celebration of the Atomic Energy Week** on Dec. 10-14 at the PNRI compound, Commonwealth Avenue, Diliman, QC. There will be free guided tours to the PNRI facilities/laboratories, video showing and exhibit on the beneficial uses of nuclear technology. For details, call 920-8789.

Improve Your Eyesight Naturally. Relearn to see clearly using holistic health methods. No drugs, surgery or exercises. Free introductory lectures on Dec. 11, 6:30 p.m. and Dec. 13, 10 a.m. Workshop classes begin on January 2002. For details on classes and additional free lectures, call 893-7606 or 893-1893.

Painting for Beginners by Pia Rivera, graduate of Instituto d' Arte Lorenzo de Medici, Florence-Italy. Courses offered: Oil, Acrylic, Gouache and Watercolor. For inquiries, call Pia at 646-1078, Kahye at 893-6069 or text 0917-5331336.

Come and shop at **Grand Pamasko Sale,** with discounts of up to 60 percent on famous brands of home and kitchen appliances, audio-video equipment, clothing, and many more until Dec. 23, Monday to Sunday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., located along Edsa, Mandaluyong (in front of SM Megamall). Free parking for customers. Credit card payment accepted. For inquiries, call 646-5979.

Intro to Poetry Writing: Classical and Free Verse, Dec. 16 at the Loyola House, Ateneo, QC. For details, call 285-2449.

Children's Church Workers' Conference-Workshop, Dec. 15, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the ACCM Bldg., 102 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. Limited slots available. Seminar fee is P100 inclusive of lunch, snacks, certificate and handouts. For details, call 823-2615 or 0919-8270776.

Faber-Castell invites all elementary pupils to join the **Little Masters Club,** an art club where kids can join art workshops and exhibits, meet new friends, receive newsletters, and join future contests sponsored by Faber-Castell. Registration is ongoing. For details, call 361-7391 to 92.

ProActive Center for Training will hold a **Managing a Catering Business Seminar-Workshop** on Dec. 10-19 at Astoria Plaza, J. Escriva Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. For details, call 878-5231 and 0919-5500601.

X-manila

Dreamweavers Project and Butuan City's top designers will stage ***Kaba*: The Yearend Fashion and Rave Party** on Dec. 15, 7 p.m. at the Butuan City Gym. The show will feature campus bands from Urios College, local campus models wearing the collections of Gregg Calo, Jinky Petalcorin, Joey Sendico, Benjie Manuel and the latest in denim wear courtesy of Andre Boutique, plus a rave party dished out by 102.3 Killer Bee FM. Part of the proceeds will be donated to the victims of the tragic incident in Camiguin. For inquiries, email icetea@eudoramail.com or call 0917-4819963/0919-6481392 or (085)-3423029.

The **Ednas School** "E-Quake" Batch 1991 will hold a reunion on Dec. 15, 7 p.m. at 105 Tambac District, Dagupan City (Karen Gutierrez's place). For details, call contact Maharlika (0917-457-2248),Karen G. (0917-508-1149),Gerald F. (0919-848-7961) or ConCon (0917-999-2244).

Earth, Wind and Fire, a pottery exhibit by Archie Stapleton, Jeff van den Broeck, Cagayan de Oro Pottery and the Sagada Pottery Training Center, until Dec. 20 at The Sanctuary Gallery, Maryknoll, Campo Sioco, Baguio City.

The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules and tickets. You can reach us by e-mail at sim@inquirer.com.ph or by fax at 897-4811.